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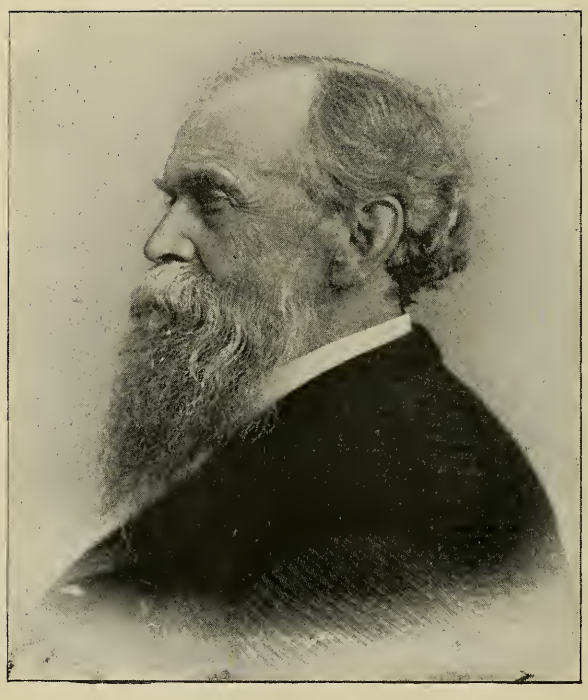

FRANCIS C. SESSIONS.

MATERIALS FOR A HISTORY

OF THE

SESSIONS FAMILY IN AMERICA,

THE DESCENDANTS OF

ALEXANDER SESSIONS

OF

ANDOVER, MASS., 1669.

GATHERED BY

FRANCIS C. SESSIONS.

+ 1392.173

ALBANY, N. Y.:
JOEL MUNSELL'S SONS, PUBLISHERS.
1890.

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B. H.
Dec. 19, 1892
B.

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PREFACE.

I HAVE tried for many years to get up a genealogical history of the Sessions family, but I have found the family so scattered over the United States, that I have not been able to get a full statement. Many to whom I have written have not been able to reply understandingly, and I have been obliged to give it up, but I have obtained much valuable material which I concluded to put into permanent form for the benefit of those of the name who may be interested in the facts presented. There may be errors and some confusion, but there are many things in the record not before published.

While on a tour of Europe the past year I visited Wantage, Berkshire county, where our ancestors came from, but found none of the name there, but in the adjoining county of Gloucester is a family by the name of Sessions which no doubt came from the same stock. It is the only family of the name that I was able to hear of in England, and coming from the same neighborhood we concluded that we were related.

The father, Hon. J. Sessions, at the age of over 80 was mayor of Gloucester. His three sons were with him in a large manufactory business in Gloucester and Cardiff, Wales, under the name of J. Sessions & Sons. There is also one daughter who is actively engaged in benevolent and reformatory work, and the mother built a "Home for the Fallen" and the same is managed and cared for by members of the family. They all belong to the Society of Friends, and Frederick Sessions, although at the head of a large business, gives his entire time, without salary, to Christian and reformatory work, lecturing and organizing Sunday schools, temperance societies, etc.

The crest of the English Sessions family is a griffin's head. The griffin is the fabulous offspring of the lion and eagle. Its legs and all from the shoulders to the head is like an eagle, the rest of the body is that of a lion. This creature was sacred to the sun, and kept guard over hidden treasures. Sir Thos. Browne says it is emblematical of watchfulness, courage, perseverance and rapidity of execution.

F. C. SESSIONS.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Francis C. Sessions..... Face Title.
Coat of Arms..... " p. 4
Walter L. Sessions..... " p. 63
Rev. John Sessions..... " p. 120
The old Congregational Church, South Wilbraham, Mass..... " p. 179
Residence of Robert Sessions..... " p. 179
The Old School House..... " p. 180
Judge Wm. M. Sessions..... " p. 204
Wm. Robert Sessions..... " p. 220
Gen. M. H. Sessions..... " p. 240

PROVIDENCE, R. I.,
February 14, 1891.

FRANCIS C. SESSIONS, Esq.:

DEAR SIR — Governor Darius Sessions, of Rhode Island, was born at Pomfret, Conn., October 13, 1717 — died at Providence, R. I., April 22, 1809, in the 92d year of his age.

I have sent you the crest. Its only history I can give you is this, my aunt Mary Ann Sessions gave it to me about fifteen years ago.

The writing on the box is my grandfather's, as she always lived with him. I think it had been in his possession for a long time, and it would be hard work to trace the original.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM SESSIONS.

EXTRACTS FROM RECORDS.

[By Alfred Poor of Salem, Mass., for Francis C. Sessions.]

County of Essex, Mass.—Probate Records.

ALEXANDER SESSIONS witness to the will of John Aslet of Andover May 15 1671 and was at the court when it was proved 27 4mo 1671

Pro. papers in office of clerk of courts

The following is the papers *in full* of his estate

An Inventory of the estate of Alexander Sutchins* who deceased february 26th 1687

80 acres of Land and houseing	80^{lb}	3 cowes 9^{lb}	89 0 0
1 oxe 1 steer 5 2 heifers	40^{s}	1 mare 40^{s} 2 calves 20^{s}	10 0 0
15 sheep	4^{lb}	Swyne 4^{lb} 2 beds & beding 5^{lb}	13 0 0
3 potts & warmeing pann	40^{s}	2 chests & oy^{r} woven ware 40^{s}	4 0 0
Books and other small things	20^{s}	3 axes 1 chaine & other tools 40^{s}	3 0 0
		The wholl sum	119 0 0

The men whose names are under written being desyred to apprise this estate doe attest that we

---

* The original spelled "Elexsander Seshins."

have done it according to the best of our judgement as witness our hands

MOSES TILLER
his M mark
SAMUEL SPOFFORD
his S mark

Debts
Due from the Estate

Due to Mr Wainwright	£4	0	0
Due to Thomas Spofford	3	0	0
Due to Mr Correll	1	0	0
Due to the Shoemakers	0	18	0
Due to Moses Tiller	0	14	0
Due to Goodm Graves	0	5	0
Due to the tayler	0	8	0
Due in money	0	4	0
	10	9	0

Elizabeth Sutchins widow and Relict of Alex^{r} Sutchins presented this Inventory on oath att Court in Ipswich 25 1mo 1690

Letters of administration are granted to s^{d} widow, John Spofford of Rowley Thomas Patch of Wenham acknoledge themselves to stand bound jointly and severelly in the bond of 200^{lb} to the Treaser off Essex that said widow shall admister according to law

Attest BENJA GERRISH

4:209

Essex *ss* Elizabeth Sutchins alies Low Adm^{x} of the estate of Allexander Sutchins late of Andover deceased the acct of her administration on s^{d} estate exhibited to the Hon^{ble} Barth^{o} Gedney Esq^{r} judge of probate of wills &c for s^{d} county march the 8th 1696–7

The S[d] Estate is Cred[r]	£	s	d
Pr the Real Estate as pr Inventory.....	80	00	00
Pr the Psonal Estate as pr ditto.....	39	00	00

Yo[r] Hon[rs] acc[t]ant Prays allowance for the following charges payments & disbursements by her made since she accepted the said trust

The Said Estate is D[r]	£	s	d
To bond & letter of administra[tt]con & recording y[e] Inventory.....	4	00	9
It Funerall charges 30[s] charges in my lying in 3[lb] 10[s].....	3	00	0
It keeping the youngest son 4 years & keeping the youngest child 4½ y[rs] before I married Mr Low & since 4 y[rs] & 3 mo & 4 other Small Children I kept after my Husb[d] Sutchins died 6 mo & some of them longer & fitting them to go to prentice.....	50	00	0
It 2 cows & a heifer of about 3 years old y[t] died the next winter following after the Inventory given in 7[th] & 6 sheep that died also apprized at 32[lb]...	8	12	0
It p[d] Moises Tyler 14[s] p[d] the Shoemaker 18[s]	1	12	0
It stating the acct. & recording the settlement 5[s]		5	0
It allowing the acct settling & dividing the estate.....		10	0
It a quietus 4[s] allowed y[e] adm[x] for her trouble 3[lb].....	3	04	0
It y[d] Mr Wainwright 48[s] & so made due to Mr Wainwright 31 4.....	4	00	0
It so much due to Thomas Spawford.....	3	00	0
It so much due or p[d] to Mr Corwine.....	1	00	0
It so much due to Goodman Graves.....		5	0
Due or p[d] ye Taylor.....		8	0

The Said Estate is D^{r}—(*Cont.*)	£	s	d
It so much due or p^{d} in in money 4^{s}		4	0
It so much Remains to Ball^{a} as above.....	40	16	0
Carried Forward	119		

her
Elize X Sutchins alies Low adm^{x}
mark

Essex ss By the Hon^{l} Barth^{o} Gedney Esq Judge of probate of wills &c^{a} for s^{d} county Mar. the 8 1696–7 Elizabeth Sutchins alies Low adm^{x} made oath that the above is a just and true accompt of her admincon on the estate of Alexand^{r} Sutchins late of Andover dec^{d} to the best of her knowledge

Sworne attest John Croad Reg

Which acct is allowed Attest John Croad Reg^{r}

The Ball^{a} of above account being 40^{lb} 16^{s} is divided as followeth viz (Being Real estate) $\frac{1}{3}$ Thereof to the widow during life, and after her decease to revert to the Children of Alexander Sutchins dec^{d} as the law directs

The Widow Elizabeth Sutchins alies Low $\frac{1}{3}$	13	12	0
It John Sutchins Eldest son 2 shares 22 years old.....	5	8	9
It Allexander Sutchins about 21 years old.	2	14	5
It Timothy Sutchins about 19 yrs old.....	2	14	5
It Samuel Sutchins about 18 yrs old.....	2	14	5
It Nathaniel Sutchins about 13 yrs old....	2	14	5
It Josiah Sutchins about 12 yrs old.....	2	14	5
It Joseph Sutchins about 11 yrs old.....	2	14	5
It Abel Sutchins about 8 yrs old	2	14	5
It Elizabeth Sutchins about 24 yrs old	2	14	5
Exn^{d}	£40	16	1

5:122

Josiah Sessions of Bradford husbandman — his widow Anna Sessions appointed adm[x] Feb 15 1724 Sureties Saml Sessions of Andover & Sam'l Cole of Boxford all three signed their names to the bond of £500 amount of Inventory £68 12 6 the Real Estate consisting of

"Dwellinghouse & 30 rods of land & 1¼ more in Bradford"

"120 acres of land lying in Boxford joyning to y[e] above s[d] Land N E"

In the list of Personal Est is "Carpenters tools 62" Account of Anna Sessions the Adm[x] Sept 20 1725 among the charges are

"To Elizabeth Low by Bond principal & Interest"

"To Bringing up of three young children since their fathers death all being under six years of age" 14:88 and 15:14 3–4

Elizabeth Sessions of Bradford spinster Her brother Josiah Sessions app[d] adm[r] Jan. 29 1747 23:134

David Sessions of Andover — His widow Mary Sessions appointed adm[x] Dec 8 1756 Inv May 1757 £152 16 6

Homestead of about 100 acres

Acct May 30 1757 in which she (Mary Sessions) charges for

"Bringing up 3 young Children"

Acct Oct 21 1765 when two young children had died & the widow had married John Long — son David aged 20 in 1769 and son Darias 14 in 1769 34:90, 179 42:204 45:140, 146

Dower set off to widow Apr 8, 1779 — 27 acres & the buildings 52:182

Samuel Sessions of Andover Adm^{n} granted to Timothy & David Sessions with Henry Ingalls & Benj Porter for sureties Feb 25 1750 Real Estate
Homestead of about 30 acres
Land in Boxford 16 acres
Pasture called Jocks Hill 16 acres
whole amt of inventory £338 12 11
Guardian to the following 2 children { John & Sarah } was Mar 25 1751 when { John & Sarah } under 14 was Asa Foster of Andover who settled his acct. July 14 1760 when Michael Gillson was husband of Sarah & John had Jere Foster for his guardian who was app^{d} June 1758 when s^{d} John was upward of 14 years of age
Timothy Sessions the only surviving adm^{r} settled his acct. of adm^{n} May 8 1758 in which he charges for
Providing for the widow
Paid David Session's estate for pasturing cattle
Paid Josiah Session his part claim
Signed by him & by Mary Long late wife of David Sessions Son John had 2 shares of the estate
29:246, 275, 263; 35:169; 37:141

Timothy Sessions of Andover made his will Aug. 16 1762 proved Nov 7 1763 Legatees wife Abigail who was executor
Child { Mary wife of Stephen Johnson who was to have all the estate after decease or marriage of the widow 40:248
Inv Nov 22 1763 amt £245 16 2 Real est consisting of
Homestead of house &c and about 20 acres
Old orchard about 4 acres & Marbles meadow
41:13

Acct of Abigail the wid who had m Amos Kimball dated Aug. 1765 — she had sold land to Joshua Foster 42:112, 160

Josiah Sessions of Boxford yeoman will of Aug 30 1784 proved Jan. 7 1794 Legatees
wife —— mentioned but no name given
Elizabeth Sessions
Sarah Sessions
Nath[l] Sessions } both under 21 years of age
Stephen Sessions } — to have the real estate
It was on the line of Boxford and Andover part in one town & part in the other town Real estate 150 acres Amt of Inventory £944 10 6 Debts £193 15 5¼ Lemuel Wood was Ex[r] of the will & rendered his acct 1798 1799 & 1801
63:52, 85, 116; 66:43; 67:110; 68:273

Elizabeth Sessions of Bradford singlewoman deceased Dec 17 1834 & Stephen Sessions of Bradford her only brother & nearest relation petition & was app[d] adm[r] Jan. 20 1835 Her estate all personal was $93.45

Stephen Sessions the adm[r] settled his acct. Feb 19, 1839 Complained of for not settling it befor, by Persis Emerson the wife of Reuben Emerson who then claimed to be the sole heir of the deceased E. Sessions 110:308 &c

Geo W. Sessions of Manchester, Bennington county Vermont petition & he sold Real estate located in Sangus Mass that belonged to the children of him & wife Charlotte he being guardian of them they being minors viz the following
Children { Ellen Charlotte Sessions
George Henry Sessions July 4 1849
N. S. 161–37

The above is an abstract of every paper in the Reg. of Probate down to Dec. 1870

Essex Co. Registry of Deeds

Alexander Sessions an appr of a stray steer taken up by Joseph Robinson of Andover 1674

Josiah Sessions of Andover husbandman bought of Samuel Nevens of Woburn Middlesex Co Mass for "a valuable sum of money" about 96 acres of land in Boxford "bounded as followeth on the north bounded by land of Widow Mighill, John Watson, Robert Haseltine and part against John Haseltines land being ye head of ye Merrimack* division of land and ye east end butting against Johnsons pond, and upon it and ye south side and ye west end upon ye land of Cornelius Brown the bound by ye pond at ye south east corner, a black oak tree marked and stones about it and ye southwest corner a red oak tree marked and stones about it said tree stands on ye south side of ye brook comeing out of ye swamp near Thomas Peabodys house so called the said tree stands about six or eight rods eastwardly from the new way they commonly go to Bradford Meeting house so crossing ye brooke running Northwardly to a red oak tree marked and stones about it which tree stands eastwardly of said way as it goes up ye hill containing a line till it comes to Bradford land or continuing a line there. So all ye upland swamp and meadow ground within ye bounds above expressed"

dated Feb 25 1712–3 27 : 179

Anna Sessions of Bradford recieved by deed of gift from her mother Widow Sarah Cole of Boxford all her personal estate and also all her share or

*Bradford is that part of Rowley which was at first called "Merrimack," and Boxford is what was at first called the "village Lands."

part of her (Wid. Coles) brother John Aslehee's Real and Personal estate as let by his will and testament etc. Dec 25 1728 51 : 253

Anna Sessions of Bradford adm^x^ of the est. of Josiah Sessions late of Bradford dec^d^ sold by license from Superior Court to Thomas Kimball for and Ephraim Kimball of Bradford the northeast corner of said Josiah Sessions farm "ye Northwesterly bounds being a heep of stones which is ye Southeasterly corner of land formerly laid out to John Woolson From thence ye line runs Southeasterly to a small black oak marked K S and so upon a direct line to Johnsons Pond from thence following ye pond Northerly till it comes to ye dividing line between Thomas Kimball sen^r^ and said Sessions land, from thence westerly in said line to ye bounds first mentioned there being by estimation seven acres in ye whole to have" &c Mar 4 1726

This deed was acknowledged by her Mar 9, 1729–30, at which time she signs her name "Anna Runnels" 56 : 178

Samuel Sessions of Andover husbandman and wife Mary sold to Joshua Foster of same place about 10 acres and 30 rods of land in Andover on the Northerly side of Jacks Hill "bounded on ye most Northerly corner with a stake and stones by our stone wall thence running southwestward about 56 rods to a stake and stones by Ephraim Fosters pasture or fence then run easterly joining to said Fosters pasture land and W Barkers land about 48 rods to ye corner of ye Barkers stone wall where it turns Northerly then runs Northerly about 43 rods joining to S Barkers land to a stump and stones by ye Town way so on more north fourteen rod to ye corner of our

stone wall ye North East corner then runs westerly as our stone wall now stands about eleven rods to ye first bounds mentioned" May 15 1783 ack^{d} by him Jan. 1733–4 65 : 169

Samuel Sessions of Andover husbandman sold to Nathan Barker of Andover a right in some land in Suncook upon Merrimack River that had originally been granted to a company under Capt Lovell at the engagement with ye Indians at Pegwackett it being one half of that granted to Eleazer Davis &c. Oct 16 1734 69 : 166

Sam'l Sessions Jr of Andover husbandman and wife Hannah sold to Sam'l Farnum Jr of A about 20 acres (including a drift way running though it) situated in Andover by a highway and lands of Carlton Kimball and Tyler witnessed by Tim. Sessions Sep 12 1744 85 : 260

Samuel Sessions of Andover yeoman sold to Nathan Barker of A $4\frac{3}{4}$ acres 20 perches situated in Andover on the line [of Boxford?] 36 rods and it was bounded by s^{o} Barker Jan 24 1745–6 92 : 115

Josiah Sessions of Bradford husbandman quit claim to Tim. and David Sessions of Andover (no kin mentioned) "all ye Right Titels and Demand which or my Father might Demand if living as his just Due or Right to his fathers and my grandfathers estate of which I his son Josiah Sessions mite have a just claim to as being ye sole heir to my fathers inheritance or claim to my grandfather Elexander Session's estate lying and being in Boxford and Andover Let ye *saim* be *mor* or les to have and to hold" &c June 22 1752 99 : 166

Samuel Sessions of Andover & Isaac Dodge of Boxford settle the line between their land commencing at a tree on the line between Andover and Boxford township and at the S. W. corner bounds of John Chadwick standing on s[d] Sessions hill running southwardly in Andover line 17 rods to a stake and stones then running eastwardly 61 rods to a black oak tree marked then running southwardly 43 rods to a white oak tree marked which is Benj Porters Bounds" May 14 1734 99 : 167

Abiall* Sessions of Boston Suffolk Co spinster quit claimed to her brother Sam'l Sessions of Andover all her right in her late father Alexander Sessions of Andover deed June 24 1713

" yorke ss Arundel Apr. ye 24, 1751

Then the above named Biall Dorman—acknowledged this Instrument to be her free act and deed before Tho Perkins Jus Peace" 99 : 204

"Joseph Sesion of Pomphret in the county of New London in the colony of Conetecut carpenter" qut claimed to his brother Samuel Sessions of Andover husbandman all his Right to the buildings land &c his father Alexander Sessions deceased possessed both in Andover and Boxford Oct 3 1713 witnessed by Josiah Sessions

"Windham county ss Windham June ye 1 AD 1752

Then Joseph Sessions the signer and seler to the within written instrument parsonaly appeared and acknowledged the same to be his free act and deed Before me Stephen Fuller Justice of the Peace" 99 : 205

John Sesions son of Alexander Sesions late of Andover Deseas[t] weaver quit claimed to his

*Spelled Biall in the body of the deed.

brother Saml Sessions of Andover all his right of heirship to his fathers inheritance in Andover or Boxford or elsewhere calling himself the eldest son June 14 1704 the place of the grantor's residence but the witnesses were Isaac Foster Daniel Gage and Ephraim Foster 99 : 206

Samuel Sessions bought of Sam'l Barker and wife Sarah 10 acres that s^d^ B had of Ephraim Lacy situated in Andover west end of Jacks Hill Apr 30 1733 99 : 206

Samuel Sessions Jr of Andover husbandman sold to David Sessions of same place husbandman a certain parcel of land and swamp in Andover about 57 acres bounded by Jona Ames John Foster Walter Smith Peter Negro and Saml Farnum a brook running through it Dec. 11 1744 singed by him and Hannah Sessions and witnessed by Timothy Sessions who made oath to it 2^d^ Tuesday in July 1757 after the grantor had deceased 105 : 33

Mary Sessions of Andover widow & adm^x^ of the estate of David Sessions of Andover dec^d^ sold by license from the Superior Court to Benj Porter of Boxford about 40 acres of the Real Estate of said David Sessions situate in Andover by land of Stephen Foster, Martin, Joseph Jackson one of the bounds being by the "Foord way over the brook" Nov. 8 1757 105 : 34

Abigail Sessions widow released her right of dower in land sold by Stephen Johnson & wife Mary of Andover to Joshua Foster of Andover orchard & Mowing land in Andover near Boxford line about 4 acres by land of s^d^ Foster & Lacy Oct 1764 and ack^d^ by all Nov 3 1764 113 : 153

Sam'l Sessions of Andover sold to Christ. Carlton of s[d] A. ½ acre southerly side of Blue Hill in A Mar. 1720–1 118 : 16

John Sessions of Westminster N. H. & Michael Gilson & his wife Sarah of Westminster sold to Joshua Foster the homestead of Sam'l Sessions late of Andover dec[d] 18½ acres with a dwelling-house by land of David Chadwick, heirs of Timothy Barker Benj Porter also by Tim. Sessions 56 poles & 14 poles and by road leading to the schoolhouse 51 poles &c June 24 1763 acknowledged same day 113 : 162

Timothy Sessions of Andover sold to Joshua Foster about 2 acres in Andover by his other land and by the road leading from the school-house to Ipswich — and by land of Lacy Nov. 28 1760 ack[d] 1761 113 : 167

—He sold to s[d] Joshua Foster a part of the homestead of Mr Samuel Sessions late of Andover 1¾ acres by land of said Foster. Benj. Porter & by the heirs of Ephraim Lacy June 29 1763 113 : 164

—He sold to Asa Stevens of Andover a parcel of land in Andover situated by the land of the heirs of Eben[r] Stevens for and John Foster Dec 26, 1754 and ack[d] by him July 6 1759 113 : 204

John Sessions Michael Gilson & Sarah wife of M. Gilson all of Westminster N. H. sold to John Foster & John Foster Jr of Andover blacksmiths land in Andover on Jack's Hill bounded on the Northerly side by a road leading to Rose meadow brook 69½ poles and on the westerly side by a road leading to Ipswich road 67 poles and on the southerly side by land belonging to the heirs of Capt Asa Stevens

dec^{d} 47½ poles & on the eastwardly side by Joshua Fosters land 56 poles; containing 19 acres 15 poles June 24 1763 116 : 67

David Sessions of Andover yeoman bought of Jacob Marston of said town 6 acres of Wades meadow in Andover by Carlton & Kimbells meadow Aug. 21 1745 117 : 63

David Sessions of Andover husbandman bought of Nathan Towns & wife Eunice of Andover a farm in East parish of Andover containing 40 acres with house &c bounded Northerly side of land of John Foster & David Sessions & was by land of Isaac Carlton & Barker May 31 1751 120 : 86

Timothy Sessions & wife Abigail sold to Ephraim Lacy of Andover 8¾ acres in Andover on the line of Boxford 38 rods & next to said Lacys land Mar 26 1753 ack^{d} by both Oct 11 1763 120 : 221

Timothy Sessions of Andover bought of Cyrus Marble of Andover about 9 acres of upland & meadow in Andover lying on a road leading from Salem road to the house of Stephen Foster bounded on a meadow & land of Jacob Stevens called Barnards meadow by meadow of John Johnson and on "Muschetto Brook" and on said road Mar 22 1762 120 : 252

Nathaniel Sessions of Pomphret Windham county Conn. carpenter quit claimed to Stephen Johnson & wife Mary formerly Mary Sessions daughter of his nephew Timothy Sessions of Andover dec^{d} all the right he had to the Real and Personal estate of his (the grantors) father Alex Sessions of Andover dec^{d} dated Oct 24 1765 & ack^{d} same day at Pomphret Conn. 124 : 38

Samuel Sessions of Andover
David Sessions of Boxford } of Essex Co Mass
Darias Sessions of Andover } and

Mehitable Rowell wife of Asa of Salem N H sold to John Long Jr of Andover all their interest in the land & buildings in Andover that was their father David Sessions late of Andover dec[d] The Homestead of about 49¼ acres bounded "beginning on the N. W. corner with a stake & stones a bound of — Stephen Fosters land as the fence stands 41 rods to a stake and stones thence — westerly by said Fosters land 12 rods to a stake & stones then southwardly by said Fosters land seventy two rods to a stake & stones said Fosters bounds then eastwardly by said Foster's land 54½ rods to a stake & stones then southeastwardly by said Fosters land 25 rods to a stake & stones then eastwardly by said Fosters land 29 rods to a black oak tree marked a bound of Sam'l Barker Jr. land thence Northwestwardly by said Barkers land & by land of Asa Barkers 154 rods to a stake & stones thence running southwestwardly by said Fosters land as the fence now stands 47 rods to a stake and stones & a half rod to the first bound and 6 acres in Wades meadow by Carlton & Kimball &c Feb 29 1776 Ack[d] by Rowell & wife May 23 1777 and by Sam'l Sessions Oct 7 1777

136 : 255

Samuel Sessions of Londonderry Rockingham Co N H yeoman David Sessions of Derryfield [now Manchester City] co of Hillsboro N H yeoman & Asa Rowell & Mehitable his wife in her own right of Salem Rockingham Co N H sold to Nathan Foster of Andover Mass about 15 acres in Andover bounded beginning at a stake and stones running Northwesterly by land of Sam'l Barker 40$\frac{1}{10}$ rods to

a stake thence south westerly $43\frac{1}{10}$ rods to a stake— thence Northwesterly about 8 rods to a stake thence southwesterly $36\frac{1}{2}$ rods to a stake the last courses on land of John Long thence south easterly on Stephen Foster $26\frac{1}{2}$ rods thence eastwardly south eastwardly and easterly on Stephen Foster & Isaac Carlton 108 rods to the bounds first mentioned Mar 28 1783 ack^{d} same time 140 : 249

Josiah Sessions of Boxford yeoman sold to Sam'l Runnels of Boxford about 31 poles of land in Bradford bounded beginning at an old stump in the southerly corner in the line of Boxford & Bradford a bound of land formerly Thomas Kimballs thence running Northerly by said Kimballs line 11 rods to a stake thence westerly by land of Samuel Runnels $2\frac{1}{2}$ rods to bound first mentioned July 7 1790 154 : 99

Martha Sessions widow Nat^{l} & Stephen Sessions yeomen all of Boxford sold to Eben^{r} Peabody of Boxford gent. land in Boxford bounded " beginning with a stake & stones by the road leading to Bradford, thence running North Easterly by said road $40\frac{1}{2}$ to a stake and stones then South Easterly by Phineas & Abel Kimballs land 62 rods 8 links to a stake & stones by Johnsons pond, thence South westerly by said pond 31 rods & 1 link to a stake & stones then North westerly by our own land 65 rods to the bound first mentioned containing 13 acres & 145 poles Feb 21 1798 163: 78

— They also sold to Enos Runnels of Boxford Gent. land in Boxford bounded beginning by the road leading to Haverhill running Eastwardly by the wid Runnels thirds & Lt Peabodys land 75 rods 22 links to a stake by the road leading to Andrew Peabodys then Northerly by said road $22\frac{1}{2}$ rods to a stake

then westerly by our own land 93½ rods to the first mentioned road and southerly by said road 22 rods 8 links to the bound first mentioned containing 10 acres Mar 7 1798 163:79

Nath[l] & Stephen sold to Phineas Kimball of Bradford a parcel in Boxford & Bradford bounded beginning at the N Westerly corner by road leading to Andrew Peabody thence runing S Easterly 62 rods by their own land to Johnson's pond then N Easterly & Northerly by s[d] pond then N Westerly pieces lines to the above s[d] road then South Westerly by s[d] road as the fence stands to bound first mentioned 20 acres Apr 11 1796 163:86

— The sold to Andrew Peabody of Bradford land in Boxford & Bradford bounded beginning at the road leading to Bradford running by said road by Andrew Peabody then southerly by their own land to bounds first mentioned Mar 31 1798 163:86

Stephen & Nath[l] Sessions of Bradford were sued by Stephen Foster of Bradford and 3 acres 135 rods by the pond was taken 1798 also by Daniel Hardy, of Pelham & 7 acres & 137 rods taken by the pond & that by Foster same time 163:190

— They sold all their land in Boxford & Bradford about 90 acres in two pieces with the buildings to Andrew Peabody Nov 3 1798 163:196

Nathaniel Sessions of Boxford yeoman was sued by Lemuel Wood of Boxford and 9 acres 100 rods of his land in Boxford was taken bounded beginning at the North East corner on the road thence running as fenced by land of Abel Kimball 57 rods to a stake thence 31 rods by land belonging to the heirs of Josiah Sessions late of said Boxford dec[d] to a stake thence 62 rods to the road by land belonging to s[d]

heirs thence by said road 34 rods to the bounds first mentioned 164: 196

Martha Sessions Nath[l] Sessions & Stephen Sessions all of Boxford sold to Stephen Foster of Bradford land in Boxford bounded beginning at the North West corner, thence running Eastwardly by land which we lately sold to Lt Eben[r] Peabody to Johnson's pond so called, thence Southwardly by said pond to other land of s[d] Peabody thence Westwardly by said Peabody's land to the road leading from Bradford to Boxford meeting house thence Northwardly by s[d] road to the bounds first mentioned containing 20 acres woodland more or less Apr 1798 164: 212

Josiah Sessions of Boxford dec[d] his executor Lemuel Wood sold to pay debts Phineas Carlton of Bradford 29 acres 57 poles of land with the incumbrance of the right of dower in Boxford bounded beginning at a stake "at the road leading to Newbury then running North Easterly by said road 86½ rods to a stake & stones, thence North westerly and westerly by Andrew Peabody's Buswell's & Kimball's land 98 poles 15 links to a stake & stones thence nearly South 32 rods 5 links to a stake & stones thence South Easterly 70 rods to the first bounds To Have" &c Apr 18 1799 166: 73

— He Lem. Wood the ex[r] also sold to Eben[r] Peabody of Boxford 12 acres 72 poles with the incumbrance of widow's dower the following described land in Boxford bounded beginning "by the road leading to Newbury then running Eastwardly by said Pea body's land 99 rods to a white oak tree by Johnsons pond thence Northwesterly & Westerly by said pond 35 rods to a stake & stones by said pond thence North Westerly 74 rods to a stake & stones by the

above said road thence Southerly by said road $30\frac{1}{10}$ rods to the first bound To Have" &c Apr 18 1779 166: 117

— He moreover sold with the widow's dower incumbrance also to Joseph Carlton of Boxford 25 acres 6 poles of land in Boxford bounded commencing by the road leading to Newbury then running North Easterly by s[d] road 6 rods thence North Westerly 60 rod thence westerly 26 rods 10 links to the head of a stone wall thence westerly & North westerly as the wall stands 38 rods 10 links to the road leading to Haverhill thence Southerly by said road $58\frac{1}{10}$ rods thence Easterly $93\frac{1}{2}$ rods to Ensign Runnels' land to the first bound to Have" &c Apr 18 1799 168: 151

Stephen Sessions of Boxford yeoman sold to Nath[l] Sessions of Boxford one half of all the Real & Personal estate which was his father Josiah Sessions late of Boxford dec[d] and one half of all the buildings thereon, said estate being in Boxford & Bradford Apr. 11 1796 and ack[d] Mar 22 1797 166 : 202

(Sisson Edward of Charlestown Middlesex co leather dresser took a mortgage of Robert Emes of Malden morocco dresser of a tract of about 10 acres of land situated in Lynn Essex co Mass Dec 1811 195: 84

Sessions, Stephen of Boxford yeoman in consideration of $1000 paid by Billy Bradtreat of Hartland Windsor co Vt yeoman sold a certain piece of land in Boxford and Bradford Essex co Mass. with the buildings there on bounded "beginning by the road leading to Haverhill by Phineas Kimballs land thence running southerly by said road to Enos Runnels land thence easterly by said Runnels to the road leading to New-

bury, thence Northerly by said road to land belonging to the heirs of Andrew Peabody, thence Northerly by said Peabody's land and Daniel Buswells & Phineas Kimballs land to the first mentioned bounds

Also a certain other piece of land lying in said Boxford on the easterly side of the road leading to Newbury bounded at a red oak tree above the gate used to hang thence running easterly by Lt Eben^{r} Peabody's land to Johnson's Pond, thence Northerly & Northwesterly by s^{d} pond to s^{d} Peabody's land thence Westerly by said Peabodys land to the said Newbury road thence southerly by said road to the bounds first mentioned; containing in the whole ninety acres be the same more or less To Have" &c Apr 29 1819 ack^{d} by him same day & recorded Mar. 22 1824

The above is all conveyed to or from Sessions to vol 250 the last date about 1828 and most if not all on the records of this county to 1871

From Records, etc., in the Office of the Clerk of the Courts, Essex Co., Mass.

Alexander Sessions in his deposition 27th 1mo 1669 called himself aged 24 in the case Simon Bradstreet vs. John Gage said Gage's hogs having broken into Bradstreets corn field on the plain by Merrimack river in Andover about three miles from the town The deposition reads thus

"I doe testify that I went downe to my M^{r} Bradstreets playne after much of y^{r} damage was done, and before it was prizd, or the fence viewed to mend the s^{d} fence and working there til about noone & then having occasion to goe after some young Cattle of my masters, coming back to ye cornefeild, the

doggs that were with mee runne into ye corne and fell upon a parcel of hoggs that were ye feild, & catched one to observe what ye earmark was, & it was slit of ye neare eare halfway downe thereabout, I spoke to Mr. Faulkner of it, & he sayd twas his hoge he owned the marke to be his earemarke & sayd moreover that the y^r^ doggs had bit y^r^ hog: this damage was done in the yeare sixty six"

Taken upon oath the 27^th^ 1 . 69 before me Simon Bradstreete

"The s^d^ deponent further witnesseth that in y^r^ yeere sixty five he saw a parcel of swine by ye river side and making haste downe to y^m^, & making a a noyse I saw two or three skip out of the feild and goodman Kingsburoughs sonne sayd they were his uncle Gages hoggs, & Daniel Gage upon his description said he thought they were theres Further the deponent testifys that in ye yeere sixty six he judged the fence sufficient against orderly cattle when he left at the spring"

Taken upon the same oath ye same day S. Bradstreete

Orig. Doc. on file, vol. 14, page 46.

Town Records of Sessions.

Andover to 1800.

Alexander Sessions m Elizabeth daughter of John Spofford of Rowley Apr. 24, 1672

John b Oct 4 1674
Alexander b Oct 3 1676
Timothy b Apr 14 1678
Samuel b Mar. 8 1680
Nathaniel b Aug. 8 1681
Josiah b May 2 1684

Joseph b Mar. 28 1686
Alexander Sessions died Feb. 26, 1688–9

Elizabeth Sessions m Rich[d] Carrier July 18, 1694 children of R & E. Carrier on A record were
Eliz[th] b June 3 1695
John b Mar 16 1697

Samuel Sessions m Mary Cox or Cock Feb 17 1707–8 Children of S & M Sessions on A record
Sarah b 1708–9 d Jan. 7 1709
Child (name worn off) b Aug. 17 1712
Daughter b Sept 6 1714 their dau. Mary d July 19 1736 aged as grave stone 22 years
Son (name gone) b Jan. 25 1718

Timothy Sessions of Andover m Abigail Black of Boxford Intention of m. Nov 4 1738 Their only child was daughter [Mary] b. May 9, 1740

Samuel Sessions Jr. & Hannah Gray (Int. of m. Dec. 1739) m Jan. 8, 1740
Sarah b Nov 6 1740
John b June 9, 1742
Samuel Sessions Jr died Apr 24 1746 in his 36[th] year
Hannah Sessions widow m. Dea David Foster Jr of Ahashuelot May 31, 1750

David Sessions m Mary Lancksford a resident of Andover Dec. 29, 1743
Hettee b Aug 19 1744
Samuel b Feb 11 1747
David b May 11 1749
Mary b Oct 30 1751
Darius b Sept 1753
Daughter (name gone) b Sept 24 1755
Samuel Sessions d. Dec 6, 1750 (See also Boxford record)

Abigail Sessions widow of Andover and Amos Kimball of Boxford Int of m July 5 1765

Mary Sessions (by Rev Mr Phillips) m Mar 30 1758 to Stephen Johnson

Boxford Town to 1800.

Josiah Sessions m Martha Merrill
Stephen b Dec 26, 1775

Samuel Sessions drowned in a brook near the house of John Chakwick Dec 6 1750 aged 70 years

Bradford Town to 1730.

Josiah and Anna Sessions had
Martha b Sept 16 1717
John b June 26 1723

Josiah Sessions died Dec 30 1724
Anna Sessions m Sam'l Runnels Feb 18 1730

List of Letters Sent.

William V. Sessions, South Wilbraham, Mass.
Mr. —— Sessions, Pomfret, Conn.
Mrs. Celina Sessions, Newall Longmeadow, Mass.
Rev. John Sessions, or his descendants, Watertown, N. Y.
Hon. Walter Sessions, Panama, Chautauqua Co., N. Y.
Rev. Charles Hammond, Monson, Mass.
Rev. Alex. J. Sessions, Brookline, Mass.
Rev. J. W. Sessions, Westminster, Conn.
Rev. Sam'l Sessions, Ithaca, Michigan.
E. W. Sessions, Esq., Abington, Conn.

LETTERS.

AMASA SESSIONS TO JOHN SESSIONS, NORWICH, N. Y.

UTICA, N. Y., *August* 30, 1838.

MY DEAR SIR — As I am a little scrupulous about calling any man reverend, you will allow me to address you as a brother in Christ, a namesake, and, as I suppose, a distant relative.

AMASA SESSIONS TO JOHN SESSIONS — *Sir:* In October, 1798, being then nineteen years of age, I obtained leave of my father, Nathaniel Sessions, of Union, Conn., to come to Skaneateles, Oneida county, N. Y., where I have resided mainly since. In June last it seemed right, in the providence of God, to visit with my wife the land of my nativity; and as I was wont, when a boy, to go to see my grandparents at Pomfret once a year, I had a desire now to go and see the place where they lived, and where they were buried.

William Sessions, in Abington, adjoining Pomfret, is the only man of the name of Sessions living near the place of my ancestors. He is the only son of my uncle Squire, deceased, and bred at college;

a farmer, a gentleman of wealth and great affability (though I fear he cannot discern spiritual things); his age about forty. I had not seen him since he was a little boy. On making known to him my wish to visit the graveyard, etc., he informed me that a few years since he had received a letter from a minister by the name of John Sessions (yourself, I suppose), requesting the genealogy of those of our name, etc., and that this request he had handed over to a cousin of ours, of my age — John Sessions, then of Providence, R. I.— who promised to make you the answer, but he thought it had never been done.

And, sir, it is on this account that I take it upon myself to answer what I suppose was then your most reasonable request. The next day with this good cousin I went to the graveyard in Pomfret, where I found a large ancient stone, whose engraving told me that Mr. Nathaniel Sessions, with his wife, Joanna, died in 1771, aged ninety-one years. I distinctly recollect hearing my father often state that this man was his grandfather; that he, with two brothers, came from England; that he was among the first settlers of Pomfret; that one of his brothers settled in Hampton, and had issue. The other, I I should think, had no issue.

The sons of Nathaniel were Nathaniel and John, who died young men in Pomfret; Abner and Abijah, who died at Union, leaving each a son. Alexander died in Brimfield, leaving one son, Colonel Alexander Sessions, a very worthy and pious man. Darius

was bred at college; Lieutenant-Governor of, and died in, Rhode Island; left children. Simeon died in Vermont, leaving posterity. Captain Amasa, who was my grandfather, lived and died in Pomfret, according to his monument, in 1799, aged eighty-four; his wife, Hannah, in 1804. He was a captain with Putnam in the old French War. In his prime he was a very strong man; in his advanced age, I remember, he was very corpulent. You see there were six sons of my great-grandfather who left issue, as I will tell you. The sons of Amasa (my grandfather) were John, Samuel, Amasa, Nathaniel, Robert, Squire and Abner; also three daughters — two of these had children.

A cousin of mine is Dr. Amasa Trowbridge of Watertown, N. Y. Among all the name I have known but two who were dishonorable.

My father, Nathaniel, died at Union in 1824, aged seventy-four; my mother in 1793. They were members of the Congregational Church. He had two wives, by whom he had six children each. Amasa, Ebenezer, of Skaneateles; Susan Wright, at Vernon, N. Y.; Irene died at Chautauqua; Lydia Chapman, in Onondaga; Nathaniel, with his six sons and three daughters, in Ionia, Mich.; Colonel Moses Chandler Sessions, at Union, Conn.; Polly died at Union; Fanny Eaton, Darius and Eliza Webster, with their families, are at Macomb county, Mich.; and Hannah, at Marcellus.

I believe we are all professors of religion, except

my brother at Union; mostly of the Baptist denomination. Nathaniel is a Methodist. I live with my third wife; all Connecticut women, and all the best women the Lord could give me for the time, being all of the same faith (Baptist). Two have gone to a better world, and one remains to comfort me a few days down the declivity of life, when I expect by that grace which hath hitherto supported me, to enter into the joys of my Lord, in company of many of my ancestors and dear friends, who have died in the Lord, and gone before me.

I have nine children by my second wife, with whom I lived twenty-nine years, to-wit: Lila Bennett, wife of Bennett, publisher of Baptist Register, and my youngest, Phebe, who dwells at Utica, N. Y.; Alonzo, Job, George, Amasa, John, Darius, and Jane M. Yates, all at Ionia, on Grand river, Michigan.

My age is about sixty-eight. I sold my farm at Skaneateles last fall, and expect to go to Michigan next summer (1839); expect to be here with my children, or at Skaneateles until that time.

My uncle Robert died at Wilbraham, Mass., about two years since (1836), and I hope has gone to heaven. Left twelve children; all that are living, except one, profess religion — mostly Congregational. Horace was educated at Hamilton College; ordained a Presbyterian minister; a very promising man; died at sea, on homeward voyage from Liberia (I think in 1822). I saw his monument by the side of his father's and his brother Francis, at Wilbraham a few days since.

Alexander Sessions, son of Harvey, and grandson of Colonel Alexander of Brimfield, was ordained a short time since in his native State, a Presbyterian or Congregational minister.

As I have come to the end of my paper, I will subscribe myself somewhere in the unknown ties of consanguinity, and, as I hope, in the more enduring relation of the Gospel of Christ.

P. S.—Should you have a desire to know more of the character of him who addresses you, I would like for you to enquire of some of my numerous acquaintances. But, in the meantime, I will say that I have been a Baptist about thirty-five years, and I mean to be as Catholic as the Scriptures will allow towards my own and other denominations. I am for temperance in all things; am anti-Mason, anti-Slavery, and, the Lord helping me, I intend to be anti against every error and every sin in myself, in the Church and out of it, that comes in my way according to my understanding. In this, you see, I have not sought to walk in the most pleasant path that flesh and sense calls easy, upon the ground of expediency. But years of experience teach me it is a safe way, and, indeed it yields the greatest happiness to that soul who fears to sin and trusts in God; and we find ourselves sometimes in contact with men and sentiments, and even a terror to evil-doers; yet we know in whom we have believed, and we know that He will bring us off more than conquerors, if we continue to fight the good

fight of Faith, and contend earnestly for the one Lord and the one Baptism.

THOMAS SESSIONS TO H. S. FLYNT.

CITY PROVIDENCE, *January* 20, 1845.

My great-grandfather, Mr. Samuel Sessions, was the first of the Sessions name that I have any account of. He came to this country with Paul Dudley, the first Governor of the Massachusetts (then) Colony. He came out in the capacity of his farmer, remained with him several years in Roxbury, then bought a farm in Andover, married, and raised a large family — I think seven sons — one of whom, my grandfather, Mr. Nathaniel Sessions, moved to Pomfret, married, raised a large family and lived to a good old age — died in his ninety-second year; was capable of managing his farm and other business until eighty-eight years old, when he became blind. He was the first person that drove a team from Pomfret to Providence, sixteen miles of which was heavily wooded, and had not a dwelling for a human being, say from Killingly, to within ten miles of Providence, from which place he carried back to Pomfret the first load of West India goods. He committed to memory after he was eighty years of age, the New Testament, the Psalms, and many portions of the Old Testament. He was the father of Amasa, Simeon, Alexander, Darius, and some others, the names of whom I cannot call to mind.

Darius, my honored father, was a scholar, a merchant, a statesman, a Christian, a man. His sound judgment and legal information were generally considered conclusive, and the numerous applications to him gave him a very extensive acquaintance. He was Lieutenant Governor, and acting Governor of Rhode Island for many years, and held that position at the commencement of the Revolution. He was in very delicate health, and declined public honors; bought a farm in Killingly, Conn., and lived thereon during the war. He lived single after the death of my beloved mother, and was to me a father and mother thirty years, nearly. He died in his ninety-second year, to appearance in full strength of mind.

Samuel was the name of my great-grandfather, and Nathaniel my grandfather, who must have been born about the time you mention the admission of a freeman, 1677, or two or three years afterward.

Captain Amasa Sessions was a remarkably capable man, and was my father's favorite. He commanded a company in the old French War, and my father spared no pains or expense to enable him to accomplish and make complete the raising of the company.

I should suppose that his grandson, William Sessions, would be able to give you full account of that family. My father's family was large — ten living children when I was born; four died from two to twenty-five years of age — two boys and two girls; the other six — three men and three women — will

average about seventy-five years, perhaps eighty or more. I was the youngest of the family, and am the only one remaining, and am like a pasture walnut. Born in the spring of 1769, of course seventy-six the ensuing spring.

The Sessions family came from Wantage in England. My great-grandfather, Samuel Sessions, was six feet four inches in height; was one of the body-guard of King George, then called Yeoman of the Guard, and no doubt obtained honorable discharge or would not have accompanied Governor Dudley to this country. Dr. Patterson, at the head of the Foreign Missions, now residing in Boston, was at my house some time since, with his reverend father; they had been residing in the West a few years. He informed me that they found some good society, and mentioned particularly two gentlemen of the name of Sessions, both deacons of churches, and very much esteemed for their piety, and good neighbors — very intelligent. Their names were Samuel and Amasa; no doubt from Connecticut originally.

I am a widower; lost my wife by death five years last September; was married in 1791; lived together nearly half a century; have seven children in all — five living, and two called from earth to heaven. Two sons and three daughters are now living in this city; one of my sons is a farmer, the other a distiller. Two daughters married and settled; one single, who is my house-keeper.

I married the Hon. Henry Marchant's daughter,

of Newport; he was the first judge appointed by President Washington for Rhode Island district. She had a farm given her in Newport, by her honored father, which I visit annually, and being there last June, as usual, I had a letter presented to me by my cousin, Harvey Sessions — the initials H. S. Flynt — requesting I would answer it, which I declined; but as I then supposed I had the materials, accepted; have been during the summer and autumn looking, but found nothing. What I have written is from memory, but correct.

I reside on my farm in the city of Providence, about one and a half miles from the centre of Old Market, or Great Bridge. Should your business be this way, please call and see me, and also acknowledge the receipt of this letter, per mail, and write your names at full length.

WM. H. SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS. (FORMERLY OF HUDSON, O.)

CEDAR FALLS, IOWA, *February* 28, 1859.

My great-grandfather, Alexander Sessions, lived for a time in Providence, R. I., or near there; finally moved to Pomfret, Conn., and at a late day was married, and had but one child, Alexander Sessions, Jr., who was my grandfather. Alexander, Jr., moved to Brimfield, Mass., and died there November 9, 1823. Alexander, Sr., died April 1, 1787, at the age of seventy-

four, and Alexander, Jr., was seventy-two years of age at the time of death.

My grandfather (A. S., Jr.) left three sons — my father, Harvey S., who lived in Warren, Mass., and died there in 1849, aged seventy years; Chester, the next son, left no male heir; Otis, the third son, left a son who is now twenty-one years old, and who lives on the old homestead in Brimfield, Mass., and is single.

Harvey Sessions, my father, left two sons — myself, and Rev. Alexander G. Sessions, now in Beverly, Mass. All our family are dead except the brother and nephew I speak of. My grandfather used to speak of cousins in Union, Conn.; perhaps Wilbraham, Mass., and Woodstock, Conn.; have heard of H. V. Sessions, Erie, Pa., whose mother I once saw, and could tell of the name in Union, Conn.; also, have found a Methodist minister in Waterloo, Iowa; also, name in hotel here, who told me he had two brothers, one a lawyer in New York; also, young man from Franklin county, Mass., where his father lives; he told me of another minister Sessions, at Easton, Mass. Etc., etc.

H. G. Sessions, formerly of Erie, Pa., now keeps a hotel in Camanche, Iowa.

Wm. V. Sessions to John W. Sessions.

South Wilbraham, Mass., *March* 14, 1859.

Charles, my oldest brother, was born at Pomfret, Conn., December 22, 1780; married December 27, 1810; died April 4, 1842, without issue.

Robert was born February 2, 1783, and has quite a family.

George was born December 16, 1785; married about 1811; died September 30, 1834, at Northfield, Washtemaw county, Mich., where his eldest son, A. H. Sessions, now resides.

Francis was born August 27, 1792; married about 1817; died December 5, 1822; had one son Francis C. Sessions of Columbus, Ohio.

Horace was born January 28, 1794; graduated at Yale College, 1821, and at Andover Theological Seminary, 1824; went to Liberia as agent of the Colonization Society; died on his passage home, March 4, 1826; not married.

Sumner was born December 29, 1797; married about 1827; no sons.

William V. was born September 14, 1801; married November 26, 1829, and has one son, William Robert, born December 3, 1836.

Many years ago a Mr. Sessions, of western New York, wrote for information on this subject, addressed to the oldest man in Pomfret named Sessions, which letter was sent from Pomfret to my father. We then traced our ancestors to the one that came from England in company with one of the governors, and settled in Andover, Mass., and his descendants went to Connecticut and Rhode Island.

My father was present and assisted in destroying the tea in Boston harbor.

WALTER L. SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS.

PANAMA, CHAUTAUQUE CO., N. Y.,
March 11, 1859.

What information I send you I derive from my father, grandfather and family records.

My grandfather, Walter Sessions, was born at Union, Conn., July 22, 1768, and the information he gave me, that was not within his own knowledge, he received from his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, all of whom lived within his own recollection, with whom he conversed on the subject, and received records from them in reference thereto. His great-grandfather was born in 1697, and lived until my grandfather was nearly of age.

The following record is given by Walter Sessions, who was born at Union, Conn., July 22, 1768:

John Sessions was born in England in 1672, in what borough is not remembered. He came to Boston, Mass., in 1694, as secretary of a governor of Massachusetts, appointed by the Crown. In 1696 married Hannah Pierrepont of Roxbury, Mass., by whom he had three sons — Nathaniel, John, and the name of the third forgotten.

Nathaniel was born in Roxbury, Mass., 1697. He married a Miss Waterman of Rhode Island, by whom he had six sons — Amasa, Darius, Simeon, Alexander, Abner and Abijah.

Amasa, the eldest, was born at Roxbury in 1721; married Hannah Miller of Rhode Island, by whom

he had seven sons — John, Samuel, Nathaniel, Amasa, Robert, Squire and Abner.

John, the oldest, was born at Roxbury June 6, 1746 (whose father, Amasa, soon after moved to Pomfret, Conn.). He (John) married Alice Goodell of Pomfret, by whom he had seven children — Walter (my grandfather), John, Alanson and Harvey; also Hannah, Polly and Alice.

Walter (oldest son of John) was born at Union, Conn., in 1768, and married Anna Loomis, who was born at Union, Conn., January 9, 1767. She was the daughter of Daniel Loomis of Union. They had four sons — John, Loomis, Walter and ——.

John S. Sessions (my father) was born at Union, Conn., March 20, 1797. In 1801 my grandfather moved from Union, Conn., to Vernon, Oneida county, N. Y., and in 1808 thence to Rutland county, Vt., where I was born, and my father moved from Rutland to this county in 1835. Etc., etc.

GILMAN L. SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS.

BINGHAMPTON, N. Y., *March* 18, 1859.

My ancestors were "good Connecticut people." I was born at Woodstock, Windham county, Conn. My father's name is Lyman Sessions, and he is about sixty-four years old. His father's name (my grandfather) was Abijah, who died some twenty-three years ago at the age of eighty-one. My grandmother sur-

vived him about twelve years, and died in the spring of 1848; she was a Hannah May, I think, of Holland, Hampden county, Mass. My great-grandfather's name was also Abijah, and I think that he originally resided at Pomfret, Windham county, Conn. Of him have heard but little, but think he died before the birth of my father, and by some sudden, accidental death.

My grandfather was a farmer, and a gentleman of the old Puritanic school, and had something of a history. He served in the War of the Revolution as a lieutenant; was wounded at the battle of White Plains; was one of the earliest pensioners, and was known as Colonel Sessions. He reared a family of three sons and six daughters, all of whom arrived at mature age. Among the sons William Pitt Sessions, the oldest, is still living in his native town, Union, Tolland county, Conn. He is a venerable gentleman, nearly eighty years of age. The next, Abijah, is still living, within a stone's throw of William P. Sessions. My father, Lyman, was the youngest. The daughters were named Sarah, Annie, Hannah, Louisa, Mary and Olive. Louisa and Hannah are dead. The rest still live, and within a radius of five miles from their birth-place. Annie and Mary were never married, and still occupy the old homestead. Uncle William Pitt Sessions has always been a farmer, and though twice married has had no children. Uncle Abijah has always been a farmer, also; has two sons and four daughters, still living. Alexander,

S., the oldest son, resides in Union, Conn. Jared, the the younger son, is a manufacturer, and settled in Toronto, C. W.

My father (Lyman) has been merchant and manufacturer, and in his later years has turned farmer. My mother's maiden name was Marcia Paul. She, too, was a descendant of another branch of the Sessions family. There are three of us, myself (Gilman L. Sessions) and two sisters, who reside at home; their names are Joanna and Marcia. My own life has been quiet; am not married; graduated at Dartmouth in class of 1853; taught one year at Washington city; then commenced the study of law in this place (Binghampton, N. Y.).

My grandmother, on my mother's side, was Anna Sessions, daughter of Abner Sessions, and if I mistake not he was the son of Ebenezer, a cousin of my grandfather (Abijah). My grandmother married Robert Paul of Union, Conn. She also had a brother named Ebenezer, who removed in early life to this State (New York), and died some three years ago in Cortland county.

There was also a branch of our family settled in North Brimfield, Hampden county, Mass. The earliest of these was Colonel Alexander Sessions, a cousin of my grandfather. One of his sons, Captain Harvey Sessions, died some ten years ago in the old neighborhood. He left two sons, William H., a merchant, and somewhere in Iowa; and Rev. Alexander G. Sessions, preaching in Massachusettts.

I think I have heard that my grandfather had still another cousin, and believe his name was Nathaniel. He, too, was one of the "Union Sessions." Etc., etc.

[Also refers to Chauncey Paul, Union, Conn. (his mother's brother), and Charles Hammond, principal of Lawrence Academy, Groton, Mass., for such facts as they may possess.]

JOHN SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS.

NO. 10 WALL STREET, NEW YORK,
March 31, 1859.

The earliest date that I am able to give you is the birth of my grandfather, whose name was Nathaniel, and who was born at Pomfret, Conn., June 10, 1850. He married Irene Wales, who was born at Union, Conn., August 13, 1750. His father's name was Amasa, whose brothers were Abner, Alexander, Abijah, Simeon and Darius, and whose children in the order of birth, were John, Samuel, Amasa, Robert, Susannah, Nathaniel (my grandfather), Hannah, Squire, Polly and Abner.

His (Amasa's) father's name was Nathaniel; but I am not able to give you the date of his birth, or birthplace. My father, Amasa, was born in Union, Conn., June 30, 1779, and died November, 1838. His brothers and sisters are as follows: Ebenezer, born May 11, 1781; died December, 1855. Susannah, born March 29, 1785; living. Irena, born April 12, 1787;

died August, 1835. Lydia, born March 5, 1789; living. Nathaniel, born August 20, 1790; living.

His mother having died, his father married Fanny Chandler, who died April, 1843, leaving children; Hannah, born February, 1797; living. Moses Chandler, born February, 1799. Polly, born January, 1801; died December, 1824. Darius, born May, 1805; living. Elesa, born June, 1807; living.

My grandfather died at Union, October 5, 1824, I think.

My father at the age of nineteen (1798), went to Skaneateles, N. Y., where he resided until his death. He is supposed to have been the first who emigrated westward. No children of his first wife survived her, and he married my mother, Phebe Smith, about the year 1808, and their children are as follows, viz.: Sila, born in 1809; Alonzo, born in 1810; Job Smith, born in 1812; George M., born in 1814; Jane M., born in 1816; Amasa, born in 1818; John, born in 1820; Darius, born in 1822; Elizabeth P., born in 1825.

Ebenezer, my uncle, went also to Skaneateles; Nathaniel and Darius to Michigan, after living some time in Onondaga county.

Moses Chandler resides in Connecticut, and I believe all my aunts, except Susannah and Lydia. Susannah married William Wright, and is still living in Vernon, Oneida county, N. Y., having ten children, all but two of whom are living.

Two of my sisters are living in Utica; one in

Michigan, where also are Alonzo, Job and Amasa; Darius is at St. Bernard, Clay county, Missouri, a merchant; the others are farmers. George M. died in California.

PERRIGRINE G. SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

CITY BOUNTIFUL, UTAH TERRITORY, }
May 15, 1859. }

My grandfather, David Sessions, with two brothers, Samuel and Darius, all three enlisted in the Revolutionary War. Darius was killed in battle; the other two served until peace was declared. Samuel, when last heard from, was in the State of New York; I have no further record of him.

David, my grandfather, was born in Boxford, Mass.; married Rachel Stevens, who was born in Manchester, Mass.; thence removed to Stratford, Orange county, Vt., where they raised six children — Polly, Sally, David, Rachel, William and Asa; thence removed to Newry, Oxford county, Maine, where he obtained a pension, and lived an honorable life, independent of all religious creeds.

Rachel died October 1, 1823. David died September 23, 1824. Polly, the eldest, married Joshua Alexander, and they live in Vershire, Orange county, Vt., and have a large family; religion, Presbyterian. Sally married Josiah Flanders, and settled in Orford, New Hampshire. Rachel married Samuel Barker,

and they live in Rumford, Oxford county, Maine; have a large family; religion, Presbyterian. William married Susan Blodget, and lives in Milan, Coos county, N. H.; religion, Free Will Baptist. Asa married Lydia Littlehale, and lives in Rumford, Oxford county, Maine; no religion, although in good circumstances pecuniarily, as are all the rest of the family.

David, my father, born at Farby, Orange county, Vt., April 4, 1790; married Patty Bartlett (who was born February 4, 1795, in Bethel); January 28, 1812, settled in the town of Newry, Oxford county, Maine; had eight children: Perregrine (should be P. G. S.) born June 15, 1814; married Julia Ann Kilgore (who was born in Newry, Maine, July 24, 1815) Sept. 21, 1834, and had two children, Martha Ann, born September 22, ——, and Carlos L., born July 17, 1842. Julia Ann died January 25, 1845, and Perrigrine married again, to Lucina Call, of Nauvoo, Ill., January 28, 1846. (Lucina C. was born in Lake county, Ohio, September 29, 1819.) Sylvanus, born at Newry, Maine, June 5, 1816; died September 15, 1832. Sylvia, born July 31, 1818; married to Winsor P. Lyon. Anna, born March 21, 1820; died September 20, 1823. David, born May 9, 1823; married Phebe Foss (who was born at Saco, Maine, November 2, 1832) at Salt Lake City, U. T., December 30, 1853. Anna B. was born March 16, 1825, and died August 10, 1832. Bartlett was born August 1, 1827, and died February 15, 1828. Amanda, born at Far West, Missouri; date of birth and death not known.

I have quite a journal of my own life and experience, in traveling through England and America, as a Mormon Elder. There are three of the name of Sessions who live in Provo City, U. T.; one, I think, is Richard.

JAIRUS ALEXANDER SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS.

BRIMFIELD, MASS., *June* 29, 1859.

Otis Sessions, my father, was born in Brimfield, Mass., December 2, 1782; was married May 20, 1830, to Lucy Bliss of Western, now Warren. Children: Sarah Elizabeth, born May 15, 1832; Jairus Alexander, born March 26, 1836; Mary Emilie, born December 25, 1837.

My father died suddenly March 25, 1851, aged sixty-eight years.

Sarah E. Sessions, married April 28, 1859, to Isaac E. Tyler of Worcester, Mass.

My knowledge concerning my ancestry is very limited; but I am told that my great-grandfather, Alexander Sessions, and his wife Huldah Bower, removed from Pomfret, Conn., to Brimfield, with their son, Alexander, and his wife, Sarah Grosvenor. Children: Sarah Sessions, born May 30, 1776; married to Ezra Rich of Warren; both dead, but I have not dates. Harvey Sessions, born September 14, 1778, and died January 1, 1849; married Elizabeth Sabin, also dead — no date. Chester Sessions, born

November 27, 1780; died November 23, 1848. Otis Sessions, married to Sarah Read of Cambridge; three children. Joseph Sessions, born January 30, 1785; died March 10, 1810. Lucy Sessions, born April 5, 1787; died August 3, 1843; was twice married, first to Dr. Sherer, and then to Colonel Amos Palmer, both of Palmer, Mass., but no children.

My great-grandparents' remains are buried in this town, and from their tombstones are copied the dates of their decease: "Alexander Sessions, died April 11, 1787, aged seventy-four; his wife died June 11, 1792, aged seventy-two.

ALEXANDER J. SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS.

BEVERLY, MASS., *June* 28, 1859.

Colonel Alexander Sessions came to Brimfield, Mass., then a new town, about 1770; I should say his father, Alexander, came with him; they were from Pomfret, Conn. The Colonel was a strong-minded man, firm and resolute, with a voice that would go all over his farm, not less than through his regiment. He was fond of reading and composing, thought for himself on all subjects, and long a professor of religion. For a long time before his death, he had selected the man to conduct his funeral, the bearers, hymn to be sung, and wrote down other directions, selecting a verse for his tombstone:

"How loved, how valued once," etc., etc.

He was one of the four colonels named by General William Eaton as his pall-bearers. I used to listen with great interest to his stories of his early coming to Brimfield, as connected with wolves, bears, etc., etc., and of his hunting excursions, of which he was very fond.

Harvey, my father, settled in Warren, then Western, in 1800, where he lived half a century, a merchant, but paying attention to farming in the later years of his life, successful and respected.

My own record would be something like this: Alexander Joseph Sessions, born August 13, 1809; graduate of Monson Academy and Yale College; theological student in Yale and Andover Seminaries; settled in Salem, Mass., June 6, 1838; married Hannah Williams Seccomb of Salem, and was recently settled in Melrose, Mass.; have one child, William Alexander.

Eliza Sabine Sessions, my sister, married Nelson Carpenter, M. D., of Warren, Mass. She died in 1839, leaving three children, Harvey Sessions Carpenter, Eliza Sessions Carpenter, and Jane Elizabeth Carpenter. Etc.

ELIAKIM WILLIAMS SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS.

ABINGTON, CONN., part of Town of Pomfret, }
July, 1859. }

It appears that Samuel Sessions was the first person of the name that came to this country from Eng-

land, and settled in Andover, Mass., and had a large family of sons, whose names I know not, except Nathaniel, who moved to this town about 1704, and lived to ninety-one years of age. His sons were Simeon, Darius, Alexander and Amasa (and perhaps others, of whom I have no knowledge).

Simeon had several children, and settled first at this town and afterward moved to New York or Vermont.

Darius settled in Providence, R. I., where he was quite a prominent man. He left two sons and several daughters.

Alexander had one son, Alexander, Jr.

Amasa, my grandfather, had several children, whose births and deaths are as follows: John Sessions, born June 17, 1745; died December, 1820. Samuel, born November 26, 1746; died in 1818. Amasa, born August 12, 1748; died May 16, 1816. Nathaniel, born June 10, 1750; died October, 1824. Robert, born March 4, 1752; died September 26, 1836. Hannah, born February 2, 1754; died May 18, 1773. Susannah, born November 16, 1755; died in 1783. Squire, born December 23, 1757; died September 26, 1826. Mary, born February 8, 1761; died in 1845. Abner, born in 1763; died in 1763. Abner, born September 23, 1765; died February, 1825.

The above dates I took some years ago from the town records. The above-named uncles and aunts of mine mostly married in this town, and I can get names and dates if desired.

John had four sons and one daughter; Samuel, two sons and three daughters; Amasa, one son and five daughters; Nathaniel, five sons and seven daughters; Robert, six sons and five daughters. Hannah never married. Susannah married a Trowbridge, and was the mother of Dr. Trowbridge, of Watertown, N. Y. Squire, my father, lived and died in this town; married a Sumner, daughter of William; had two children, one of whom died in infancy, leaving myself, the only one of the family now residing in town. Mary married an Utley, in Hardwick, Mass., where she left several children. Abner left two children — one son, Wyllys, and one daughter, Susan.

I was born July 24, 1796, and am now sixty-three years of age; have had four children, three now living — one son and two daughters.

[This Sessions has access to much information from old town records in Pomfret. J. W. S.]

EXTRACT FROM LETTER FROM SAME TO SAME.

August 7, 1859.

My father died in Salt Lake City August 11, 1850. He was a farmer, and a high priest in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He has two brothers living, as far as I know, William Sessions, living in East Milan, Coos county, N. H., and Asa Sessions, living in Rumford Corners, Oxford county, Maine.

I am a farmer here, and keep a public-house.

P. S. My brother is postmaster here, and the post-office is called "Stoker P. O."

[This brother is David W. Sessions. The first letter is signed P. Sessions; the next two are signed P. G. Sessions. J. W. S.]

MRS. MILTON SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS.

OGDENSBURGH, N. Y., *August* 3, 1859.

Rufus is the name of my father-in-law; names of his brothers, Horace, John and Ebenezer. My husband superintends the Victoria bridge at Montreal.

Milton, born at Randolph, Vt., August 27, 1818; his wife Rosanna Beals, born June 1, 1819, in Underhill, Vt.; married at Norfolk, N. Y., March 22, 1842. Children: Theresa M., born July 7, 1844, at Madrid, N. Y. Henry H., born June 21, 1847, at Madrid, N. Y. Elina C., born November 14, 1849, at Madrid, N. Y. Frank M., born October 17, 1853, at Ogdensburgh, N. Y.

[This family moved to Northfield, Vt., in 1861. J. W. S.]

GILMAN L. SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS.

BINGHAMPTON, N. Y., *August* 22, 1859.

From information derived mainly from my uncle, William Pitt Sessions, I am enabled to trace our line of descent back to the very root of the tree.

About the year 1700, Abijah and John Sessions, two brothers, emigrated from Scotland to this country. From what part of that country they came, I cannot learn; but that they were of that nation, I think, is beyond a doubt.

Of these two, Abijah is supposed to have been the oldest settler in the town of Pomfret, Windham county, Conn. John seems to have located himself in the same neighborhood, yet a little further south; perhaps in Pomfret, yet I think most probably in the town of Windham, Conn. They were both carpenters, yet did much at farming.

Of the life of John but little can be gathered. I am persuaded that he left several children; but who, or how many, I do not learn. I think, however, that a branch of the family, who were living in Mansfield, Conn., over fifty years ago, some of whom emigrated to the town of Lisle, in this county, were descendants from him.

His brother, Abijah, of Pomfret, seems to have been a man of some local standing, during the first half of the eighteenth century. Him we make the first ancestor of our family in this country. He had seven sons, all of whom arrived at manhood: Darius, Simeon, Amasa, Abner, Alexander, Abijah and John. My descent I claim through Abijah, who was born in Pomfret, Conn., in 1727. Farmer — married, about 1752, Joanna Dana, of Pomfret, and about the same time moved to Union, Tolland county, Conn. He is said to have been a large, strongly-built man,

and died in April, 1753, quite suddenly, in consequence of over-exertion and fatigue caused by participation in a wolf hunt, aged twenty-six; and Abijah, his only son, and my grandfather, was born about six weeks after his death. Grandfather, the third of the name of Abijah, passed his early life in Pomfret, probably in that portion now called Brooklyn; he went back to Union, when twenty-one years old, but seems to have associated with the Brooklyn militia during the Revolution, and at first served with General Israel Putnam, and afterwards as ensign; served three campaigns; was at Cambridge, and at the battle of White Plains, where he was slightly wounded. He married Hannah May, of Holland, Mass., in 1778, and, after the war, settled in Union; was familiarly known as Colonel Sessions, from holding that office in the State militia for a long time; was a selectman for thirty years; justice of the peace, and represented his district in the Legislature year after year. He died July 6, 1834. His wife, Hannah, died April 14, 1845; was born February 17, 1754.

Children: William Pitt, born February 6, 1773; Sarah W., born September 5, 1780; Louisa, born March 10, 1782; Joanna D., born February 11, 1784; Almy, born February 18, 1786; Hannah, born December 11, 1789; Abijah, born April 12, 1791; Lyman, born April 7, 1793; Olive, born November 11, 1794.

William Pitt Sessions married Elizabeth Kees, who died in 1840; and then he married Louisa Morris. No children. Resides in Union, Conn.

Abijah married Elizabeth Childs of Woodstock, Conn., in 1815; has two sons, Alexander, living in Union, and Jared, living in Toronto, Canada; also four daughters. He is a farmer, and lives at Union.

Lyman Sessions (my father) married Marcia Paul of Union in 1823; have three children, Joanna D., Marcia C. and myself (twenty-seven years of age). My father has been a merchant, manufacturer and farmer; still lives at West Woodstock.

All of these three brothers have held the various town offices of selectman, justice, representative, etc., etc.

Of the sisters, Sarah was married in 1803 to Hendrick Griggs; is now a widow and lives in Union. Louisa married Charles Foster in 1809; died in Hamilton, N. Y., in 1842. Joanna and Mary were never married; live in Union. Hannah married Edward Keis of Ashford in 1812, and died in 1828. Olive married Asa Morse of Woodstock in 1825; is still living.

Of the other seven brothers, descendants from Abijah, the first, Darius graduated at Yale College about 1737; was afterward Lieutenant-Governor of Rhode Island, etc., etc. (No details known by me.) Simeon located himself in Pomfret or New Pomfret, Vt.; was born in 1715, and lived to ninety or ninety-five years of age; was a farmer; had one son called Zoloa or Zoloy, probably the short of the old Puritanical name of "Resolve." Alexander lived and died in Brimfield; a farmer; had one son, Colonel Alexan-

der, who also lived and died in the same place, leaving still another son, Captain Harvey Sessions, who died about 1847 in South Warren, formerly Brimfield, leaving two sons — Rev. Alexander Sessions, lately settled at Melrose, Mass., and William H. Sessions, now of Iowa. Abner located in the west part of Union, where he died, not very old; had one son called Ebenezer, eccentric, with a horror of business, and a local reputation as punster, etc. One couplet that I have heard from my grandmother seems to relate to his father and two of his uncles, Amasa and Alexander —

> "Abner was the fiddler, Amasa the bow,
> Alexander the resin that made the fiddle go."

From which it may be inferred that Abner was a character on whom any sort of tune could be played; Amasa one of the smooth, plausible sort of persons; and that Alexander was of a more practical business turn.

This Ebenezer had two sons, Abner and Ebenezer, the latter of whom died in Marathon, N. Y., in 1857, aged seventy-eight, leaving sons and daughters. Abner (son of Ebenezer) died before my recollection. One daughter, Anna, married Robert Paul of Union, and among other children had one daughter, Marcia, who married Lyman Sessions of Woodstock.

Of John, one of the youngest brothers, little is known.

Amasa, farmer, and lived and died at an extreme old age in Pomfret. He is also said to have left

seven sons, Esquire John of Union; Colonel Samuel of Westford; Colonel Robert of Wilbraham; Nathan of Union; Amasa of Tolland; Squire and Abner (I think, though, it is written Amasa) of Pomfret.

Of these sons, Esquire John was born about 1743. He had four sons — Walter, John, Harvey and Alanson. Walter moved to Vermont; now in the State of New York. John, unmarried, was at one time Sheriff of Providence, R. I. Harvey was a merchant; died some years ago in Newport, R. I. Alanson born about 1785, said to have located near Boston.

I have heard that there were branches of the Connecticut family of Sessions in the State of Mississippi; and also two or three in Lisle, a town about thirty miles north of here.

[Then follow legends as to the origin of the name of Sessions; but as they are all located in America I do not copy. J. W. S.]

Alexander G. Rich to John W. Sessions.

Warren, Mass., *August* 20, 1859.

[This letter and accompanying lists seem principally to refer to the "Carpenter," "Grosvenor" and "Dresser" families, and as Mr. Rich says that they are in the handwriting of Colonel Alexander Sessions, I give those items that seem to relate to the Sessions family. J. W. S.]

Alexander Sessions, Jr., born December 15, 1751.

Alexander Sessions, born October 4, 1713; died April 1, 1787.

Huldah Sessions, died June 11, 1792.

[M. R. also says that he has the data of Colonel Sessions' family, but does not give them. J. W. S.]

H. S. Flynt to John W. Sessions.

Columbus, Ohio, *August* 23, 1859.

The first record I have of the Sessions family is Alexander Sessions, "a Freeman of Andover, Mass., 1677." He was also one of the proprietors of the town, as appears by a vote, naming the proprietors, about that time. I have also a record of the marriage of Alexander Sessions (the same man, no doubt) "to Elizabeth Spafford, in Andover, 24th April, 1672." Alexander had sons: John, born 1674; Alexander, Timothy, Samuel, Nehemiah, Josiah and Joseph. I also have record of the marriage of Richard Carrier to Elizabeth Sessions, in Andover, July 18th, 1694. Alexander (probably the first above named) died in Andover, February 18th, 1688–9.

I do not trace the above family any farther; but, by the letter of Thomas Sessions (a copy of which I send you herewith), there appears to have been another Sessions in Andover about the same time, viz.: Samuel Sessions; it is evident that he could not be the Samuel named above as son of Alexander, for (according to Thomas), this Samuel had a son,

Nathaniel, born about 1680. This Samuel may have been a brother of Alexander. I think from this Samuel, one branch of the family can trace their descent, according to Thomas' letter, viz.: Samuel Sessions, of Andover, had seven sons (according to Thomas), one of which was Nathaniel, born about 1680.

Nathaniel Sessions moved to Pomfret, Conn.; was one of the first settlers (as early as 1704). He married, had sons, and died in 1771, aged 91.

His sons, so far as I have ascertained, were Amasa, Simeon, Alexander, Darius, Abner, Zolvia and Abijah.

Darius was the father of Thomas; he was a graduate of Yale College, 1737; was a long time Lieutenant-Governor of Rhode Island.

Amasa Sessions, son of Nathaniel, was born in Pomfret, Conn., in 1720 to 1723.

Married Hannah Miller, of Rehoboth, Mass. Children: John, born January, 1745; died in Union, Conn. Samuel, born November, 1746; died in Westford, Conn. Amasa, born August, 1748; died in Tolland, Conn. Nathaniel, born June, 1750; died in Union, Conn. Robert, born 15th March, 1752; died in Wilbraham, Mass. Susannah, born —— ——; married Wm. Trowbridge, of Pomfret. Squire, born December, 1759; died in Pomfret. Mary, born February, 1761; married Barnes of Hardwick, Mass. Abner, born —— ——; died in Granby.

Robert Sessions married Anna Ruggles, of Pomfret, April 16th, 1778, and had children: Betsey, born

May 7th, 1779; died October, 1853. Charles, born December 22, 1780; died April 4, 1842. Robert, born February 2, 1783; died —— ——. George, born December 16, 1784; died September 30, 1834, at Northfield, Mich. Nancy, born April 17, 1787. Celina, born August 6, 1789. Francis, born August 27, 1792; died December 5, 1822. Horace, born January 28, 1794; died March 4, 1826, at sea. Martha Phipps, born June 23, 1795. Hannah Miller, born January 6, 1797. Sumner, born December 29, 1797. Nabby R., born February 23, 1800; died November 22, 1800. Wm. Vine, born September 14, 1801.

Robert Sessions moved from Pomfret to Wilbraham, Mass., soon after the birth of Betsey, where he lived until his death, September 27, 1836, aged eighty-four and one-half years. Anna, his wife, died November 22, 1838, aged eighty-two years. Robert was one of the memorable Boston Tea Party.

Abner Sessions, son of Nathaniel, of Pomfret, was born about 1720–21; settled in Union, Conn., married Mary Wyman (widow of Ebenezer Wyman, First Congregational minister of Union), by whom he had one son and two daughters. He was chosen Town Clerk, in 1747, and held that office until 1780; was Captain of Militia and Justice of the Peace for about thirty years; was very active in the struggle for Independence; was a Deacon in Congregational Church for many years, and died February, 1781, aged sixty years, and left his widow and children in good circumstances.

Children (so far as ascertained):

Ebenezer, born March 6, 1750; married Huldah Hayward, of Ashford, May 13, 1769. Mary, born February 1, 1753.

Abijah Sessions, died at Union, Conn., April 12, 1753, aged twenty-seven. (I think this was a brother of Abner above, and son of Nathaniel, of Pomfret. H. S. F.)

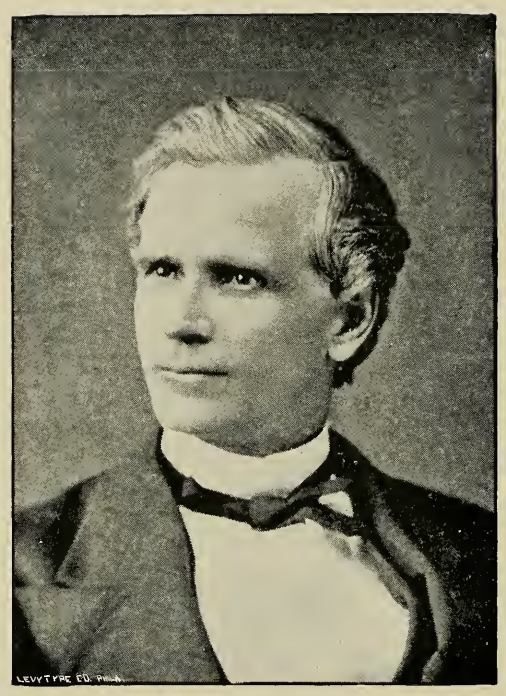
John Sessions, son of Amasa and Hannah, of Pomfret, married Alice Goodale, of Pomfret, November 2, 1766. Harvey Sessions, their son, was born at Union, September 29, 1785, and lived at Newport, R. I. (He is named by Thomas in his letter.)

Amasa Sessions, son of Amasa and Hannah, of Pomfret, married Esther Grosvenor, in Pomfret. Children:

Violette, born at Pomfret, March 5, 1777. Hannah, born at Woodstock, February 2, 1779; died September 22, 1840. Esther, born at Woodstock, February 10, 1781. Payson, born in 1782–3; died in infancy. Olive, born at Woodstock, March 6, 1784; died September 22, 1829. William, born at Tolland, Conn., August 27, 1786; died April 20, 1816. Mary, born at Tolland, Conn., March 8, 1789. Susannah, born at Tolland, Conn., December 12, 1791.

Amasa died May 16, 1816, and his wife, Esther, died April 3, 1827.

Samuel Sessions, of Union, probably son of Amasa and Hannah, of Pomfret, married Abigail Ruggles, of Pomfret, October 11, 1769.



WALTER L. SESSIONS,
Jamestown, N. Y.

Abijah Sessions, of Union, and Hannah May, of Holland, Mass., were married February 5, 1778. They were parents of Wm. Pitt Sessions, and Abijah and Lyman Sessions. (This Abijah was probably grandson of Amasa and Hannah, of Pomfret. H. S. F.)

I have also the following Estrays:

Joseph and Elizabeth Sessions. Children: Eunice, born February 26, 1731–2. Joseph, born September 12, 1734. John, born April 8, 1741.

Joseph Sessions, Jr., married Esther Parish, January 26, 1758. Daughter, Esther, born June 6, 1758.

John Sessions married Martha Neff November 20, 1766. Children: John, born January 23, 1768. Asahel, born June 12, 1769. Josiah, born June 28, 1771. Elisha, born September 17, 1773. Eunice, born October 29, 1776.

Betsey Sessions, daughter of Robert and Anna, married Levi Flynt of Wilbraham January 1, 1807. Four children, who died in infancy, and last, Horatio Sessions, born April 2, 1822 (resides at Columbus, Ohio).

Charles Sessions married Clarissa Granger, and died; no children.

Robert Sessions married Charlotte Metcalf. Children: George M., dead. Elizabeth, dead. Oscar, married, and lives in Wilbraham. Maria, married, and lives in Minnesota. Jane, married, and lives in Blankford, Mass. Jennette, dead. Joseph, dead. Horace, married, and lives in Wilbraham.

George Sessions married Eunice Mather of Tolland, Mass. Children: Alexander Hanson, lives in Michigan; Juliet, Milton, Horace, William, George, Eunice, John Quincy (a lawyer) in Michigan. (Don't know how many others are living.)

Nancy married Rodney Comstock; lives near Columbus, Ohio. No children.

Celina married Cyrus Newell of Long Meadow, Mass. Children: Samuel, Nelson, Horace and Charles.

Francis Sessions married Sophronia Metcalf. Children: Francis C., married Mary Johnson; Francis Charles, born 27th February, 1820, resides at Columbus, Ohio. Martha P. married John West of Wilbraham; children: John R., Jane D. and Robert S.; resides at Adams, N. Y. Hannah M., married —— Chapin of Wilbraham; no children. Sumner married Mary Wood of Wilbraham; children: Mary, Harriet, Frances and Edward Payson (dead).

Wm. Vine married Lydia Ames; lives on old homestead, Wilbraham. Children: Nancy (dead), Wm. R. and Lydia. Wm. R. is married and lives with his father. Lydia principal of Lake Erie Seminary at Painesville, and has married Rev. Mr. Woodworth of Berlin, Conn.

Rev. Horace Sessions, son of Robert and Anna, graduated at Hamilton College; studied theology at Andover; became interested in the American Colonization Society, soon after it was organized; was a travelling agent for it; went to Liberia with one of

the first colonies, and died at sea on his return voyage. Never married.

PHILIP SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

CARROLL PARISH, FLOYD, LA., *November* 28, 1859.

In conversing with Mr. P. W. de France, a relative of mine, who married in the Sessions family, I have collected some information as to the S. family.

My father's name was Egbert John Sessions, a native of Adams county, Miss., born near Natchez. His father's name was Philip J. Sessions, and he, to-wit, my grandfather, came to Mississippi at an early day, and also his brothers, Joseph, Richard, Boone, Uriah and Jesse. These brothers all settled in Adams county, and one brother, William Sessions, settled in the northern part of Mississippi, and afterwards removed to Texas.

These were all sons of Richard Sessions, Sr., who resided in North Carolina, and died there. His sons all came to Mississippi. I have understood from my father that the Sessions were of Swiss origin, and that grandfather or great-grandfather, was a seafaring man, and getting shipwrecked on the coast of North Carolina, abandoned the sea, and took to agriculture.

My father (Egbert J. Sessions) died August 9,

1855. He was a planter and politician, and represented the county of Warren, Miss., in the Legislature for several years. He married twice, and I am the only child by his first wife. His widow is living, and has three children. All my uncles were planters, and most of their male descendants are planters and in good circumstances. Richard, Daniel and Joseph, sons of Richard Sessions, live as follows, to-wit: Richard and Daniel, Post Office address, Lake Village, Arkansas, and Joseph near Natchez, which is his Post Office.

James P. Sessions, son of Joseph, resides in Jackson, Miss.

James Sessions, son of Uriah, resides near Warrenton, Miss.

Albert Sessions, son of Joseph, resides near Lexington.

They are all engaged in planting.

My Post Office address is Floyd, Carroll parish, Louisiana.

JAMES P. SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS, SAN FRANCISCO.

JACKSON, MISS., *February* 20, 1860.

My grandfather, Richard Sessions, lived many years in Sampson county, North Carolina. His wife was Esther Boone, who was either a niece or a cousin of the celebrated Daniel Boone; most probably a cousin. They had a family of twelve children, eight

sons and four daughters, of whom my father, Joseph Sessions, was the oldest. The names were as follows, in the order of their birth, all having been born in Sampson county, North Carolina:

Joseph, born in 1774, emigrated to the then Territory of Georgia, now the State of Mississippi, and settled on the waters of Second creek, about twelve miles southwest of Natchez, in Adams county, about 1797. He married, the same year, Sarah Howard, a native of the Territory, which, at the time of her birth (1776), was, I think, in possession of the French.

My father's brothers and sisters were: Beersheba Crommedy, Jesse, Mary Dodd, Silas, Nancy Herring, Richard, Betsey Peterson, Philip, Boone, Uriah and William.

All, with the exception of Beersheba, Betsey and Silas, emigrated early in life to Mississippi. All, except Silas, married; all had large families, and all, except Beersheba and William, are dead. The first is still living in North Carolina, at the advanced age of eighty-four years, and William resides in the neighborhood of Marshall, Texas. My father and all his brothers were industrious, hard-working tillers of the soil, not one of them having ever had a trade or profession, but all men of sterling worth, of excellent sense, and sound judgment, and nearly all amassed considerable fortunes, which their descendants, whose name is legion, are enjoying or destroying, in almost every State south of Mason & Dixon's line. Several members of the family have, at differ-

ent times, held offices of honor and trust; but very few of them have ever thought it worth the time or trouble to attempt to obtain official station, especially political.

To go back a little, the three brothers, of whose settlement on Pearl river, Sandy and Second creeks, you speak — Joseph, Jesse and Richard — there was no one of the name of John, and neither of the above named ever made a settlement on Pearl river. Joseph and Richard settled on Second creek, the first in 1797, and the other about 1800.

The children of Joseph were: Richard Washington (dead), Mary (dead), Philip, Cornelia, who married John Boynton, of Philadelphia, in 1829, and who is now a widow; Eliza Ann, Joseph Ferdinand (dead); Albert Madison, married in 1834 to Lucretia Kercheval, of Lexington, Ky., and has six children, viz.: James Perry, born in 1814, was married in 1846 to Anna Hardeman, of Tennessee; Caroline (who should have been mentioned before James) married, in 1829, John M. Maury, of Tennessee, now a widow; and Delia (dead), married, in 1841, Judge C. L. Dubois, now of New York. The children of Jesse are: Virginia, Missouri Courtenay (dead), Richard, Matthew (dead), and Joseph Ferdinand. The children of Richard: Maria (dead), Melinda (dead), William Boone (dead), Joseph, Katharina, Andrew Jackson (dead), Richard, Charles (dead), and Daniel. The children of Philip: Elizabeth (dead), William (dead), Egbert (dead), and Philip Joseph (dead).

The children of Boone: Monroe, William, Sarah, Mary and Theodore. The children of Uriah: Emily (dead), Nancy (dead), William (dead). The children of William are five in number; I know not names or sex. The sisters of my father all left large families.

ALEXANDER J. SESSIONS TO JOHN W. SESSIONS.

SALEM, MASS., *December* 4, 1860.

The record I referred to was this, which must have been made before October 31, 1672, the original being in the hands of Charles H. Morse, Cambridge:

"Anne Bradstreet, Mary B., Edward Whittington, Alexand. Sessions, Robt. R. C. Baseley, Dudley Bralch."

Among the passengers for Virginia in 1635 I see the name of George Sessions, aged forty. (January number of *General Register.*) I found a cousin (that is, cousins-in-general) in Philadelphia; they came from the South — Miss E. A. Sessions, and her sisters, Mrs. Boynton, 1800 Delaney Place. Their brother's name and address is, I believe, A. M. Sessions, Tehala, Holmes county, Miss. Have lately heard one of the name spoken of, a Mrs. Teft of Savannah, Ga.

The cousins aforesaid spoke of two brothers going to North Carolina and Georgia, whose descendants, not numerous now, have gone farther south.

E. C. Sessions of Reno, Nev., to E. C. Sessions of Oakland, Cal.

Reno, Nev., *January* 1, 1869.

My genealogy is traced back to the land of "Steady Habits and Wooden Nutmegs," but the branch from which I sprung removed to Vermont about the year 1806, in the personage of my grandfather, John Sessions. He had several brothers, but I cannot recall their names at present; the youngest one was called Daniel, and one "The Schoolmaster," being his profession; my father's name John; he still resides in Vermont, near to where his father first pitched his tent.

I came to this coast in 1859, and am now in that primitive employment, a raiser of stock and tiller of the soil. My family is all with me, consisting of one wife and six children — four boys and two girls — eldest past eighteen years, and the youngest eight weeks.

Having given you so much of my autobiography, I close, merely suggesting, if agreeable, to open out yours.

Which is, in short (according to Nasby), Erastus Constantine Sessions.

William V. Sessions to Alfred Poor.

South Wilbraham, Mass., *January* 17, 1871.

Dear Sir—I received your letter and records, and was glad to know that you had been employed to

get up a memorial of the Sessions family. Your records have set clear to my mind that Alexander Sessions, senior, of Andover was the father of Nathaniel Sessions of Pomfret (instead of Samuel, as has been supposed). Nathaniel Sessions of Pomfret was my great-grandfather.

Rev. Charles Hammond of Monson (whose mother was a Sessions) has been for several years collecting facts about the Sessions family. I have seen him and handed him your letter to me; he will copy and send to you all the facts he has if you request it. He has the family of Nathaniel Sessions of Pomfret, and many families of his descendants. I think he can assist you much if he can be made to give the subject his mind; he is a man of extensive information. I hope you will write to him soon, and I would suggest some other names which I am not acquainted with.

Rev. Alexander J. Sessions of Brookline, Mass., Rev. J. W. Sessions, Westminster, Conn., Rev. Samuel Sessions, Ithaca, Michigan, E. W. Sessions, Esq., Abington, Conn., can give you any facts you may want from Pomfret, as Abington is a part of Pomfret.

All the facts that I have had in my possession heretofore I have given to Mr. Hammond, but I am willing to do what I can to assist you.

JOSEPH W. SESSIONS TO MR. ALFRED POOR.

WESTMINSTER, CONN., *February* 10, 1871.

Your favor has been received, and in reply I hardly know what to write. I have labored hard

and been at some expense to get a history of the Sessions family, and have the result on hand for my own private satisfaction. My oldest brother, Rev. John Sessions, D. D., now of Oakland, California, has also been laboring for the same object, and has done more than I have in it. This son Edward helped his father, and I think went and consulted this Mr. Sessions of Columbus, Ohio. They thought at one time of getting out a book. But his son went into other business, and it was given up. What they have collected would be more valuable for your object than any thing which I have. Mine is taken in part from theirs, though as to the early history and settlement in this country I think we differ. I feel deeply interested in the undertaking, and will aid in any way that I can. I will send you a part of what I have collected — extending a little more on my own history and that of my family. I wish I knew whether you were any way connected with the Sessions family, and how it happened that Mr. F. C. Sessions came to employ you in the work.

Henry Gray came over from old England and settled in Andover, Mass.; was a farmer, and died 1755 of a disease of the head. He had ten children. His daughter, Hannah, married a Sessions. This is the first that we know any thing of our branch of the family. It is probable, and almost certain, that his name was John, and that he came from Pomfret, Conn., where probably the first family of the name from old England first settled. My father used to

say that his father said his ancestors came from Pomfret, Conn.

Samuel Sessions married Hannah Gray of Andover, Mass., and probably lived in that part of Andover joining Boxford, where he died of a fever. He was a farmer. His widow, Hannah Gray Sessions, married a Mr. Foster of Keene, N. H. Samuel Sessions and his wife, Hannah Gray Sessions, had two children, John and Sarah.

Sarah Sessions married Captain Michael Gilson of Westminster, Vt., and died November 1, 1815.

John[4] Sessions (my grandfather), son of Samuel and Hannah Gray Sessions was born in Andover, Mass., January 9, 1741. He married Ann Worstly (part Irish and part English) November 17, 1763.

He was a farmer in Westminster, Vt.; a deacon of the Congregational Church; a judge of the County Court, and at one time a member of the Colonial Congress which met in New York. He died in Westminster, Vt., May 1, 1820, of old age; aged seventy-nine years.

Ann Worstly, his wife, was born in the year 1739, and died in Westminster, Vt., October 12, 1820, of old age; aged eighty-one. John Sessions and his wife, Ann Worstly Sessions, had three children — John, Samuel and Ann.

Samuel[5] Sessions was born June 25, 1773, in Westminster, Vt. He married Hannah Bragg June 17, 1818, in Westminster, Vt. He was a farmer, and died January 9, 1826.

Ann Sessions was born July 20, 1765. Married David Foster of Putney, Vt.

John Sessions (my father), son of John Sessions and Ann Worstly, was born July 30, 1768. He married Lucinda Washburn October 16, 1793. He was a farmer in Lunenburgh, Vt., and a member of the Congregational Church in that place. He died January 25, 1852, of old age; aged eighty-five years.

His wife, Lucinda Washburn, was born in Middletown, Conn., May 14, 1770; died in Lunenburgh March 11, 1820, of consumption. She was one of the excellent of the earth, and fell asleep in Jesus.

The Rev. Daniel Heminway, now of Suffield, Conn., preached her funeral sermon from the text, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might," etc.—selected by her before her death.

John Sessions and his wife, Lucinda Washburn, had seven children: John, Lucinda, Calvin, Joseph Washburn, Orpha, Samuel and Ann Mariah. They were all members of the Congregational Church.

John Sessions (my oldest brother) was born September 29, 1795, in Westminster, Vt. He graduated at Dartmouth College, and at the Theological Seminary, Princeton, N. J. Was settled over the Presbyterian Church in Adams, Jefferson county, N. Y., and then over the church in Norwich, Chenango county, seven years, afterward professor of English literature in the Albany Academy, Albany, N. Y. He received the honorary degree of D. D. at Madison College, New York. He married

Eliza Winne of Albany, February 1, 1825. Eliza Winne, his wife, was born January 20, 1798.

John Sessions and his wife, Eliza Winne, had five children: Cornelia Ann, George Washburn, John Winne, Helen Eliza and Edward C.

Lucinda Sessions was born in Westminster, Vt., 23, March 1797, married Almond Case, a house-joiner of Burlington, Conn., November 29, 1827. They had two children, Mariah and Avery. Mariah was a teacher of common schools, a professor of religion, and died much esteemed and lamented in Burlington, aged twenty years. Avery is also dead and has left a wife and three children. She died December 22, 1866, aged sixty-nine years.

Calvin Sessions was born in Westminster, Vt., January 10, 1799. He was a clothier in Burlington, Conn., where he married Lydia Beckett, January, 1822. They had seven children: John, Samuel, Catherine, Albert, Adeline, Lydia and Fanny. He died of consumption in Burlington, November 9, 1860, aged sixty-one years.

Orpha Sessions was born in Lunenburgh, Vt., February 18, 1803; married Charles Ames of Lunenburgh, Vt., April 25, 1827. He was a farmer, a school teacher, and singing master. They had eight children: Lucy, Jane, Aaron, Esther, Ann, Almira, John and Ellen.

Samuel Sessions was born in Lunenburgh, March 23, 1805. He obtained a private education in New York, and has been a Home Missionary in the West

for several years. He now resides at St. Johns, Michigan. He married Caroline Bird, of Buffalo, N. Y. They had four children.

Ann Maria Sessions was born in Lunenburgh, Vt., March 13, 1808. She married Albert Pedway, of Adams, Jefferson county, N. Y., October 29, 1828. He was a farmer, and died much lamented, aged about seventy. They had four children, all of them sons.

Joseph Washburn Sessions was born in Lunenburgh, Vt., June 30, 1801. After his mother's death in 1820, he went to West Hartford to live. During the summer of 1821, there was a very interesting revival there, under the preaching of the celebrated Dr. Nettleton. He was hopefully converted, and with forty-two others united with the Congregational Church, under the pastoral care of Rev. Dr. Perkins. This was in 1821. His minister, Dr. Perkins, then advised him to get an education and fit for the ministry. He fitted for college partly with Prof. Samuel Johnson, Alna, Maine, and partly at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., under the excellent Principal, John Adams. He entered Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, in the fall of 1825.

During his college course he supported himself by teaching and other labors, and graduated in 1829. He then entered the Theological Seminary, Andover, and graduated in 1832. After leaving the Seminary he preached three months in Craydon, New Hampshire, and then five months in Booth Bay, in the State

of Maine. He was ordained October 2, 1833, over the Congregational Church in West Needham, now Wellsley, Mass. At his own request, he was dismissed in June, 1842, and commenced laboring in September, 1842, with the Congregational Church and Society in West Suffield, Conn., and was installed over the church in January, 1843. He was dismissed December 10, 1852. He then supplied the pulpit in Center Brook, Saybrook, Conn., until April, 1854, when he received a call to settle over the Congregational Church in West Woodstock, Conn., and was installed June 29, 1854. He left West Woodstock in January, 1863, and went immediately to Durham Center, Conn., as their acting pastor. In November, 1869, he left Durham Center and commenced laboring with the people in Westminster, Canterbury, Conn., and is still their stated supply.

He married Mary Sewel Dunning, of Brunswick, Maine, October 17, 1833. They had two children, Mary Dunning and Laura Redway.

Mary Sewell Dunning Sessions was born in Harpswell, Maine, May 6, 1808. Her father, Samuel Dunning, was a ship builder. She was three years old when her father died, and five years old when her mother, Mary Dunning, died. After the death of her parents, she lived with her maternal grandmother.

She had one brother, Benjamin, and one sister, Margaret Miller.

Margaret married Alfred McLellan, and settled in Brunswick, Maine.

Benjamin married Martha Pennel, and settled in Brunswick, Maine.

Mary Dunning Sessions, daughter of Rev. Joseph Washburn and Mary S. D. Sessions, was born in West Needham, now called Wellsley, Mass., May 23, 1837. Graduated at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, August, 1856. Taught as Principal of the female department in the "Jefferson County Institute," Watertown, N. Y., one year. Taught two years in Ashland, Greenup county, Kentucky.

She was married May 28, 1862, to Appleton Meech Griggs, of Chaplin, Conn. He died July 1, 1870, much lamented; aged fifty years. They had one child, Annie Mary Griggs, born April 12, 1866. He lived in Chaplin, where he died. He was a farmer, though engaged much of his time in public business. He was a member of the Congregational Church, and eminently useful.

Laura Redway Sessions, daughter of Rev. Joseph Washburn and Mary S. D. Sessions, was born in West Needham, now Wellsley, Mass., June 3, 1841. Graduated at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary, August, 1860. She has taught music and other branches in Philadelphia and Niagara Falls, and in many places in Connecticut. She is now with her parents in Westminster.

Mr. Poor, dear sir, I have thus given you most of the family records, which I have collected. Perhaps it would have been better to have given you the history of my own family only, and let each of my

brothers and sisters do the same. I refer you then first of all to my oldest brother, Rev. John Sessions, D. D., Oakland, California. And also, to my brother, Rev. Samuel Sessions, St. Johns, Michigan, and he will give you a full account of his family. My brother Calvin is dead, but his oldest son, Samuel Sessions, Cleveland, Ohio, will give you an account of all his father's family, some of whom are distinguished as manufacturers. My sister Orpha, Mrs. Charles Ames, Lunenburgh, Vt., will give you an account of her family, and so will Mrs. Albert Redway, Adams, Jefferson county, N. Y., of her family. My sister Lucinda is dead, also her husband and both her children. She has grandchildren living, and perhaps my brother John, of Oakland, may be able to give you some more particulars of her and her family. Any further inquiries from you I shall be happy to answer if I can. If the work comes out before I die, I shall be willing to pay a high price to see it.

SAMUEL SESSIONS TO ALFRED POOR.

ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN, *February* 21, 1871.

DEAR SIR — Yours received, and in reply I can help you but little. My brother in Westminster, Conn., gave you all the facts that I could give of our family, except concerning myself. By writing to "Honorable Alonzo Sessions, Ionia, Mich.," you will get facts of another family line which is not related to us that we

know of. That is all that I can do for you I think.

My name, Samuel Sessions, born in Lunenburg, Vermont, March 23, 1805.

Married to Caroline Bird, in Westfield, Chautauque county, N. Y., February 21, 1832.

My wife was born in New Marlbury, Mass., October 11, 1810. Her father's name was Nathaniel Bird, her mother's Hannah Bullard.

As to my place of residence, it has been all around here, like most other Congregational ministers out west.

You will probably get the most help from my brother, Rev. John Sessions, D. D., Oakland, Cal., to whom I presume you have already written.

I can give you one more name to write to "Alfred Sessions, Spaulding Settlement, Oliver Post-Office, Michigan." I don't know as you would get a reply, for he is old and singular.

E. W. Sessions to F. C. Sessions.

Abington, Conn., *February* 25, 1871.

Sir — I have received a letter from Alfred Poor, dated Salem, Mass., February 3, 1871, Probate Office, stating that he has been employed by you to obtain "material for a memorial of the Sessions family," and wishes me to communicate to him what information I may have respecting the name. I feel under obliga-

tion to reply to the same, but instead of writing to him I have concluded to write directly to you, and inquire how far your researches have extended, and also whether you have ever corresponded with the Rev. John Sessions of Watertown, N. Y., or his son J. W. Sessions. I had some correspondence with them some years ago, and received a letter from each of them nearly the same time, both wishing me to prosecute the researches, but the father being old seemed to refer the business to the son, and he being in California, as it appeared to me then, too far away to take much interest in such matters, I did not reply to either immediately, and the death of my wife and other things seemed to take up my attention, till it has ran along so far that when I thought of it, I hardly knew where to begin till I received Mr. Poor's letter. I conclude to write to you and inquire how you came to employ Mr. Poor, whether he is a connection of yours or any of the name. He does not intimate any thing of the kind, but intimates that he has much information about the name, but still wants more. I suppose the most difficult and yet the most desirable point, is to find out the first emigrant or emigrants, and then to trace the connections down.

I have an obituary of Lieutenant-Governor Darius Sessions, of Rhode Island, who seems to have been a very prominent man in his day, and born 1717, stating that his grandfather, Samuel, came to this country with Governor Paul Dudley, but does not state the time. That Samuel afterwards settled in

Andover, Mass., and had a large family, but mentions no name, except Nathaniel, who settled in Pomfret, Conn. Our ancestor had a son Darius and seven other sons, and three daughters. This account is probably taken from the Governor's statement, and is considered by his descendants as reliable.

I also find a Genealogical Treatise published in Massachusetts, which is intended to trace all first emigrants' names to the third generation, but in the name of Sessions, it mentions the name Alexander, made a freeman 1677, in Andover. Married April 24, 1672, Elizabeth, daughter of John Spafford, of Rowley. Had John, born 1674, then Alexander, Timothy, Samuel, Nehemiah, Josiah and Joseph, and died February 26, 1639, and there stops.

Now, how shall we reconcile these two accounts? Shall we consider Samuel in the first statement and Alexander in the second, as first emigrants, or shall we take another view, which has this moment occurred to me.

I find by looking at it that Nathaniel, our ancestor, who died in 1771, at ninety-one years, was born about 1680, and that Nehemiah, the son of Alexander, was born about the same time. Now, is it not possible, that in transcribing the names, Nehemiah might be made of or taken for Nathaniel; and as Alexander was married in 1672, and was probably born from 1645 to 1650, might be the son of the emigrant Samuel, and that would bring the said Samuel, great-grandfather of Gov. Darius Sessions, in the first

statement. In thinking of this, I wish I could see the record from which the statement in the Genealogical Treatise was taken. Perhaps if you give this statement to Mr. Poor, and he could examine the thing, perhaps quite an obstacle in our researches might be removed. I mention this as Mr. Poor is as near Andover, and could make the examination as conveniently as any one. The theory here advanced may be thought to be far fetched and improbable, but as it appears not to be impossible I should like to have it examined. Should you see fit to reply to this communication, I will try to continue the correspondence, and to communicate everything that I can obtain relating to the subject, either from individuals or from the examinations of our town records.

I am blessed with health, perhaps, beyond most people of my age, seventy-four years, and if I had had this subject on my mind as much as I now have, and had known that you had, as much as now appears, I should have given you a call last summer. Having a daughter living in the western part of Ohio, near the Pittsburg and Chicago railroad, I passed through Crestline twice, going and coming, on my visit to her, where I stayed several weeks, and returned alone to Cleveland, where I stopped several days with some friends. My name is Eliakim Williams, but for brevity sake I write and have my address E. W. Sessions, and I reside in the town of Pomfret, but as there are two other Post-Offices in the town, beside Abington P. O., it is well to keep the Pomfret

off of the letters directed to Abington P. O., which is the nearest to me. Simply Abington, Conn., is sufficient.

Since writing the above I find from a Biographical and Historical Dictionary, published by William Allen, that Thomas Dudley was the first Governor Dudley that came to Massachusetts about 1630, and was Governor several times from then till 1650, and died 1652. His son Joseph, born 1647, was also appointed Governor by Queen Anne 1702, and died 1720. His son Paul Dudley, born 1675, was never Governor, but was Judge and one time Chief Justice of the State, and died 1751, aged seventy-five years. So that the first emigrant Sessions could not have come over with Paul Dudley, but probably according to the statement, with Thos. Dudley, who came over as early as 1630, and if he settled in Andover without being made a freeman and but little known, still he might have been the father of Alexander, mentioned above, who was born probably somewhere from 1640 to 1650, and died 1689; and if Nathaniel, our ancestor, who must have been born about 1630, was not the son of Alexander, must have known something about him, having came from the same town, Andover, about 1700, and most probably knew something about his ancestry and communicated it to his children, and Governor Darius taking it from him, communicated it to some one who afterward wrote his obituary from recollection, instead of taking the items from any records or written statements, and in

that way got matters somewhat confused, for Governor Darius lived till 1809, I think, over one hundred years after Nathaniel, his father, came to Pomfret.

I should like to have this subject examined further, and I think the best way would be to have the records at Andover and any persons of the name, if any are living there now, so as to learn what could be found out from them.

If you come to New England I hope you will call on me in Pomfret, but if that should not be convenient perhaps I could meet you in Wilbraham, if I should be as well as I now am. I used to visit the cousins there in my younger days, but have not seen them lately, except cousin William V. was kind enough to make me a short visit last summer when President Grant was in this vicinity.

If I should go to Providence, as I think I may this summer, I will see some of the descendants of Governor Sessions, if I can find them, and also the records, if any are to be found, and get what information I can there, and when I obtain any thing to communicate will write you again.

DAVID SESSIONS TO ALFRED POOR.

BELLEVUE, *March* 13, 1871.

DEAR SIR — I received a favor from you a few days ago directed to Alfred Sessions, Spaulding

Neighborhood. This is, or was, my brother. His name is Alpha Sessions: he died two years ago, February 11, 1869.

I am his administrator of property or estate. Alpha Sessions was born November 13, 1803, in Strafford, Vt. My father, Samuel Sessions, was born 1772, October 16th, either in Hanover or Andover. My grandfather born in Andover, I think. He married a Willkins; her people came from London to Boston.

Dear sir, I feel interested in your request, and I have already written to my older brother in Whitestown, Oneida county, State of New York (I have two brothers living there and their families), for certain information, in order to give you as positive history as possible under the present circumstances. You will oblige me to wait awhile for the proposed information. In the interval of time please send me a line or two (addressed to David Sessions, Olivet, Eaton county, Mich) if my proposition is accepted.

I hope when you conclude your work I may, in the Lord's providence, have the pleasure to read said history.

JOHN SESSIONS TO ALFRED POOR.

OAKLAND, CAL., *March* 20, 1871.

DEAR SIR — Yours of March 1st was received on the 10th. You ask if I am the man to whom you wrote to Watertown, N. Y. I am. I left W.

for this place eight years ago. Strange that my brother should have misinformed you.

You make many inquiries about the genealogy of the Sessions family. Many years ago I gathered all the information I could on this subject, and twelve years ago my son, John W. Sessions, made still more extensive investigations by correspondence with all he could hear of having the name of Sessions throughout the United States, Canada and England. He found many in Minnesota and other Western States; some among the Mormans in Utah; one a Mormon elder in a place called Sessionsville or Sessionstown; three or four in this State besides our family; one or more in the Southern States; many in Pomfret, Conn., and in Rhode Island, etc., etc., etc. But very few could trace their pedigree far. He spent much time and some money, but failed to make a perfect chain. Business has prevented his doing much about it for the past ten years, though when he has a leisure day he does a little at it. He has made me a large chart, containing two lines of Sessions, but the connecting link is wanting. I have handed him your letter (as I long ago did all my other papers on this subject, except a small family chart, which I inclose to you). If you can furnish clear evidence of the given name of my great-grandfather in Boxford, who married Hannah Gray, of Andover, it will help him much in connecting the two lines. He rather thinks the name you give belongs to the other line, but is not certain. He says any

one who would go to Boxford and elsewhere, and hunt up old family Bibles, town records, etc., could make that part of the matter clear. But there are hundreds of names all over the world, to trace which would take a lifetime, and a fortune ; and he will only do what he conveniently can about it. He and his brother E. C. Sessions (their full names are John Winne and Edward Cathcart), are real estate agents here, and full of business. He has formerly corresponded with F. C. Sessions of Columbus pretty fully. As all my papers are in John's hands, and I am nearly seventy-six years old, I can't do any thing more about it. My brother Joseph, in Westminster, Conn., can help you, as he once traveled in Boxford, hunting for materials.

I will simply add that I distinctly remember hearing my grandfather Deacon (and Judge) Sessions of Westminster, Vt., say that his ancestors were from Pomfret, Conn.; and I have given to John a brief printed document, giving an account of the first Sessions who went to Pomfret, from Rhode Island, driving an ox team loaded with goods for his store, cutting his road fifteen miles through the woods. Brother Joseph can tell you of an old letter, found in the garret of Mr. Fowler, of Durham, Conn., which gives an account of a Dr. Sessions, who settled in New Jersey. Of the public life and doings of my grandfather, you can find a great many important sketches in "Hall's History of Eastern Vermont." You can find the book in any public library, and I

hope you will not fail to get it, for I think he was the most distinguished man in our line in this country.

As writing is very burdensome to me, will you please excuse me from further details. If on any specific point, not requiring much time, you should write to my son John, he may or may not answer you, for he is very busy and somewhat sensitive on this subject, as every one must be that has been bothered with it as much as he has.

P. S.—If you succeed "in getting up, not a 'Memorial' as you call it, but a Genealogy," don't fail to send me a copy.

JOSEPH W. SESSIONS TO F. C. SESSIONS.

WESTMINSTER, CONN., *May* 26, 1871.

MY DEAR SIR—Your favor was received in due season, and gladly. I am rejoiced to know that you are trying to collect materials for a memorial of the Sessions family, because I think you will carry it through. When I was in the seminary at Andover I spent some time and money in visiting the towns in that region and examining historic records, and in consulting aged people, some of them nearly a hundred years old, who had some knowledge of the Sessions in that region. But I could not spend time to do justice to the subject, and could not trace our family back farther than my great-grandfather, Samuel Sessions, born in Andover 1710, and married

Hannah Gray of Andover January 8, 1740. Early this spring I received a communication from Mr. Alfred Poor, of Salem, Mass., making the same inquiries that you make. He said he had been employed by you to collect materials for the work. I sent him a rather hasty record of the line of our family as I had collected it. It seems that he had traced the Sessions family three generations further back than my great-grandfather, to Alexander Sessions of Andover, who in 1669 was twenty-four years old. That would make his birth in 1645, and not 1630, as you have it. But he must have been born only twenty-five years after the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock. If he was not the first of that name that came over from England, it seems as if his father must have been. I wish we could trace it back to that. Mr. Poor has supplied me with dates so that I can now trace our family line from Alexander, born 1645, down to my grandchild, who is now five years old.

But if Mr. Poor has been employed by you to collect these records, I have sent them to him. I do not see why you should send for the same thing. I hope there is no trouble between him and you. I am not acquainted with him, but he seems to me to be just the man to collect and work up these records. My oldest brother, Rev. John Sessions, D. D., now of Oakland, California, has a son who has been at work on the same thing, "at odd jobs," for several years, and as I understand, has been to consult you on the subject. He has a mass of matter, but I

guess finds it difficult to match it together. At any rate, he had not been able to trace our family back further than our great-grandfather until I sent him a part of Mr. Poor's records, tracing it back to Alexander. Mr. Poor has written me again, wishing me to send him more particulars, and I intend to do so as soon as I can get some information from absent relations.

It is gratifying to me to know that you are occupying so responsible and honorable a position in Columbus. I believe the name of Sessions has always stood high in the country. When Connecticut was a colony under Great Britain, a Mr. Sessions was Lieutenant Governor of the colony. When I was settled in Woodstock in this State, one of the deacons said to a Mr. Sessions of Union, "we have got a new minister, he is a smart man, his name is Sessions," He replied, "if he is a Sessions, I know he must be a smart feller." Although this was not true in respect to myself, I think we have no need of being ashamed of the name. At any rate I think if we can get a record of the family it will not suffer in comparison with other names. I have never been acquainted with the Sessions in Wilbraham. I should like to be. It seems that the sixth child of Alexander Sessions was Nathaniel, born August 8, 1681. He settled in Pomfret, Conn., and probably you descended from him.

I shall be happy to have you write me again. I am willing to do any thing that I can to help the

cause along, but have but little time to spare. When you come to Wilbraham, we shall feel ourselves greatly honored by a call from you. We are one of the poor ministers' families, settled in the country, trying to do a little good while we live.

S. W. Sessions to Alfred Poor.

Cleveland, Ohio, *May* 31, 1871.

Dear Sir — Herewith please find record of my father's family, so far as I am able to give it:

Calvin Sessions was born at Westminster, Vt.. Jan. 10, 1799. He married Lydia Beckwith Jan. 1, 1822. She was born Nov. 20, 1796. Her father, Abner Beckwith, was born at Lyme, Conn., 1771. He died at Burlington, Conn., May 10, 1868. Polly Humphrey, his wife, was born at Burlington, Conn. She died at Burlington, Conn., April 10, 1800.

Calvin Sessions died at Burlington, Conn., Nov. 9, 1860. Lydia Beckwith Sessions died at Bristol, Conn., July 9, 1870. Their children: Infant son, born at Burlington, Conn., Oct. 27, 1822; Catherine Maria Sessions, born at Burlington, Conn., Oct. 27, 1823; Adeline Eliza Sessions, born at Burlington, Conn., March 27, 1825; Samuel Washburn Sessions, born at Burlington, Conn., Oct. 31, 1826; John Humphrey Sessions, born at Burlington, Conn., March 17, 1828; Albert Gridley Sessions, born at Burlington, Conn., March 28, 1831; Lydia Beckwith

Sessions, born at Burlington, Conn., Aug. 11, 1832; Albert Joseph Sessions, born at Burlington, Conn., June 11, 1834; Fannie Lucinda Sessions, born at Burlington, Conn., April 21, 1836; Willard Foster Sessions, born at Burlington, Conn., July 5, 1838.

Albert Gridley Sessions died at Burlington, Conn., June 8, 1832. Albert Joseph Sessions died at Cleveland, Ohio, June 25, 1870.

Catherine Maria Sessions was married to Samuel Le Roy Belden Nov. 19, 1842. Samuel Le Roy Belden was born at Burlington, Conn., July 7, 1819. Their children: Lucius Sidney Belden was born at Plainfield, N. Y., Sept. 26, 1843. Charles Le Roy Belden was born at Bristol, Conn., March 5, 1854.

Lucius Sidney Belden was married to Ann Eliza Curtiss at Bristol, Conn., Sept. 27, 1868. Ann Eliza Curtiss was born at Bristol, Conn., July 4, 1851. Their child, Jennie C. Belden, was born at Bristol, Conn., Jan. 17, 1871.

Adeline Eliza Sessions was married to Erastus Stanley Bacon Nov. 14, 1845. Erastus Stanley Bacon was born April 23, 1820, and died Sept. 20, 1864, while being removed from Andersonville Prison Pen to Charleston, S. C. He was a member of the 7th Reg. Conn. Vols. Their children were: Ella Mary Bacon, born at Burlington, Conn., Oct. 7, 1846; Samuel Washburn Bacon, born at Burlington, Conn., Jan. 29, 1849; Edward Stanley Bacon, born at Burlington, Conn., Dec. 23, 1851, Emilie Louisa Bacon, born at Burlington, Conn., Jan. 26,

1854; Edward Stanley Bacon, born at Burlington, Conn., April 10, 1855; Maria Adeline Bacon, born at Burlington, Conn., May 14, 1857; Erastus Stanley Bacon, born at Burlington, Conn., March 4, 1859; Albert Calvin Bacon, born at Burlington, Conn, March 15, 1861.

Samuel Washburn Bacon died at Burlington, Conn., March 25, 1864. Edward Stanley Bacon died at Burlington, Conn., Dec. 11, 1855. Edward Stanley Bacon died at Burlington, Conn., May 13, 1857. (Two of the same name.)

Maria Adeline Bacon died at Burlington, Conn., May 6, 1859. Erastus Stanley Bacon died at Burlington, Conn., Sept. 5, 1860. Ella Mary Bacon was married to Riley Ruel Palmiter at Burlington, Conn., Sept. 20, 1865.

Samuel Washburn Sessions married Nancy Frisbie at Southington, Conn., Jan. 2, 1850. Nancy Frisbie was born at Southington, Conn., Aug. 1, 1824. Their children: Charles Henry Sessions, born at Southington, Conn., Sept. 14, 1850; George Albert Sessions, born at Southington, Conn., April 4, 1853; Lucy Ann Sessions, born at Southington, Conn., Dec. 30, 1854; Fannie Ann Sessions, born at Southington, Conn., Feb. 27, 1857. Lucy Ann Sessions died at Southington, Conn., Aug. 19, 1857.

John Humphrey Sessions married Emilie Bunnell — daughter of Allen Bunnell and Rhoda Atwater — Apr. 27, 1848. Allen Bunnell was born at Burlington, Conn., Feb. 7, 1802. Rhoda Atwater was born

at Bristol, Conn., Nov. 16, 1800. They were married Feb. 8, 1826. Emilie Bunnell was born at Burlington, Conn., Jan. 30, 1828. Their children: John Henry Sessions, born at Bristol, Conn., Feb. 26, 1849; Carrie Emilie Sessions, born at Bristol, Conn., Dec. 15, 1854; William Edwin Sessions, born at Bristol, Conn., Feb. 18, 1857.

John Henry Sessions married Maria Francena Woodford, at Bristol, Conn., May 19, 1869. Maria Francena Woodford was born at West Avon, Conn., Sept. 8, 1848.

Lydia Beckwith Sessions was married to Samuel Miller Lamson — son of Isaac and Celina Lamson— at Burlington, Conn., May 6, 1852. Samuel Miller Lamson was born at Sheffield, Berkshire co., Mass., Jan. 1, 1826. Their children are: Fannie Celina Lamson, born at Southington, Conn., April 6, 1853; Watson Edwin Lamson, born at Southington, Conn., March 2, 1856; Frank Elsworth Lamson, born at Southington, Conn., May 27, 1861. Fannie Celina Lamson died at Southington, Conn., Sept. 14, 1855.

Albert Joseph Sessions married Ellen Lucinda Castle—daughter of Joel Castle and Mary Fenton— at Harwinton, Conn., Oct. 2, 1853. Joel Castle was born at Harwinton, Conn., March 10, 1813. Mary Fenton was born at Plymouth, Conn., April 9, 1815, and died July 11, 1856. Ellen Lucinda Castle was born at Unionville, Conn., July 14, 1836. Their children are: Ida Cordelia Sessions, born at Harwinton, Conn., July 26, 1854. Ellen Washburn

Sessions was born at Bristol, Conn., December 31, 1869.

Albert Joseph Sessions died at Cleveland, Ohio, June 25, 1870.

Fannie Lucinda Sessions was married to Isaac Porter Lamson—son of Isaac and Celina Lamson—at Burlington, Conn., May 17, 1856. Isaac Porter Lamson was born at Mt. Washington, Berkshire co. Mass., Sept. 2, 1832. Their child, Lillian May Lamson, was born at Southington, Conn., Nov. 14, 1857.

David Sessions to Alfred Poor.

Olivet, Mich., *March* 13, 1871.

Mr. Poor.—I owe an apology for so long delaying to answer yours, and give the information you asked. I was from home when the letter came, and have had many things since to prevent my writing. Adams was the birth-place of all our children. Harvey Watts, our oldest, was born August 25, 1830; died in N. Y. Oct. 1, 1854. John Sessions, born May 15, 1833, married June 4, 1856, to Susan Maria Fox of Adams, is a farmer. (Their children: Ella and Emma, born Oct. 3, 1854; Edmund Watts, April 23, 1860; Susie Cornelia, Oct. 10, 1862; Thomas Albert, Nov. 17, 1864; John Sessions, Aug. 14, 1866.) Our third son, Edward Payson, born Sept. 2, 1835. Our fourth, Albert Preserved, born Sept. 2, 1837, married Frances Amelia Wright of

Adams, Sept. 20, 1859. They have four children: William Wright, born May 18, 1860; Bella Frances, Aug. 19, 1862; Charles Barnwell, July 21, 1865; Robert Conklin, Dec. 5, 1867. Our youngest, Angeline Elmina, born Aug. 5, 1844. My brother, Rev. John Sessions of Oakland, California, will give you a more correct record of sister Lucinda's, uncle Samuel's and aunt Foster's families than I am able to do. You ask for information of others not near of kin. I know of none, except a Dr. Amasa Trowbridge of Watertown, Jefferson co., N. Y., whose mother was a Sessions, and a relative of ours. He is dead, but a son, Dr. William Trowbridge, is now in Watertown, from whom you can get the information you wish.

D. A. Dwight to Alfred Poor.

Adams, N. Y., *August* 9, 1871.

Dear Sir.— At the request of my aunt, Mrs. Ann Maria Sessions Redway, I proceed to comply with your request. Albert Gallitan Redway was born in Galway, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1799, and died in Adams Feb. 15, 1870. He married Ann Maria Sessions at Adams. (Their children's names and ages she has given you.) His father's name was Preserved Redway, who, son of James Redway, was born at Rehoboth, Mass., July 14, 1764, and died at Adams, N. Y., April 25, 1837. His mother, Azubah, daughter of Daniel Jones, was born at Somers,

Conn., Nov. 1, 1770, and was married to Preserved Redway, and died in Adams Jan. 1, 1853. Her mother's name was Jemima Webb, who died April 13, 1781, aged thirty-six years. Daniel Jones, the son of Benjamin Jones, was born March 12, 1746, O. S., and died March 23, 1792, aged forty-six years.

This, I believe, answers all the inquiries I can, as she has answered all she could.

ALFRED POOR TO F. C. SESSIONS.

SALEM, MASS., *September* 1, 1871.

DEAR SIR. — When in Boston the other day, I searched the earliest records of births, marriages and deaths of Roxbury (now annexed to Boston, so the old records are in that office) but could not find the name of Sessions on any of them. It seems that Alexander of Andover, the earliest of the family in this country, so far as discovered by us, was not born until several years after Governor Thomas Dudley came to this country, whose daughter, Ann, married Gov. Bradstreet. I thought his father might have been the farmer of Gov. Dudley. Gov. Thomas Dudley came to this country in 1630, and died at Roxbury in 1653, and his daughter, Ann, married Gov. Bradstreet in 1628, probably in Northampton, England — so says the genealogy of the Dudley family published by Dean Dudley 1848, and have lived in Roxbury. Judge Paul, the youngest son of Gov. Thomas, was never called governor, as is said in one

of those printed letters you left with me, but son Joseph was called governor. I have not received any thing from the Sessions since I saw you.

C. Hammond to F. C. Sessions.

Dear Sir.—All the facts in my records are contained in what I send. I have written them with haste, but I believe them correct, and I have made some additions from other sources. If I could have time and had leisure to visit localities I could get much more of detail. I hate to have so much imperfection as to dates, which give so much value to a genealogical record. The traditions of families are wholly unreliable to work out any accurate results. I think Mr. Poor is a sure explorer. As I do not recall his address, I send this to you at South Wilbraham.

P. S.—This copy was made last evening before I went to rest. I hope you will go to Woodstock, Pomfret, Abbington, Brooklyn, Mansfield and Westford. I have obtained every fact in Union except the case of Mrs. Elizabeth Sessions Lawson, the daughter of Joseph Sessions, and this fact will be a good clue to other facts relating to the older branches if I mistake not. The details of the younger generations are important as giving a general present interest to your object. There are but few who know about the dead. I am one of the few.

Thursday morning. I have just found the memoirs

of Jared D. Sessions by Gilman L. Sessions, Esq., his cousin, which I send to you.

GENEALOGY OF NATHANIEL SESSIONS OF POMFRET, CONN.—By C. Hammond.

He was born in Andover, Mass., and died in Pomfret 1771, aged ninety-one. He was a farmer and an extensive land-holder. He bought June 12, 1721, of Wm. McCoy of Pomfret, one-thirteenth part of the town of Union, Conn. (See Town Records, vol. 1, p. 108.) He sold his land in Union to his son Darius Dec. 31, 1741, and two weeks after, Jan. 13, 1742–2, the son deeded the lands back to his father. He never lived in Union.

Nathaniel Sessions married Joanna Miller.

Their children were:

1. Elizabeth, b. Dec. 15, 1707, d. May 26, 1767.
*2. Nathaniel, b. Oct. 22, 1709.
*3. John, b. Aug. 14, 1711, d. May 24, 1737.
*4. Alexander, b. Oct. 4, 1713, settled in Warner, Mass.
5. Amasa, b. Aug. 13, 1715, d. April, 1799.
*6. Darius, b. Aug. 17, 1717, grad. at Yale 1737, dep. gov. of Rhode Island, d. April, 1809.
*7. Simeon, b. Feb. 11, 1720.
8. Abner, b. May 4, 1722, settled in Union, Ct., in 1744, d. Feb. 18, 1781.
9. Mary, b. Aug. 4, 1724.

* I have no genealogical facts relating to the starred names above. The Pomfret records may reveal facts. I know nothing of the daughters of Nathaniel of Pomfret.

10. Abijah, b. Feb. 1, 1726, settled in Union, Ct., d. April 12, 1753.
11. Joanna, b. Jan. 19, 1729.

Amasa Sessions, 4th child of Nathaniel of Pomfret, and his wife, *Hannah Miller*, born at Rehoboth. Their children were:

1. John, b. June 17, 1745, lived at Union and Providence, d. Nov., 1820.
2. Samuel, b. Nov. 26, 1746, Union and Westford, d. 1818.
3. Amasa, b. Aug. 12, 1748, Tolland, Ct., d. May 16, 1816.
4. Nathaniel, b. June 10, 1750, Union, Ct., d. Oct. 5, 1824.
5. Robert, b. March 4, 1752, Wilbraham, d. Sept. 26, 1836.
6. Hannah, b. Feb. 2, 1754, d. May 18, 1773.
7. Susannah, b. Nov. 16, 1755, d. 1783.
8. Squire, b. Dec. 23, 1757, Pomfret, d. Sept. 26, 1826.
9. Mary, b. Feb. 8, 1761, d. 1845.
10. Abner, b. 1763, d. 1763.
11. Abner, b. Sept. 28, 1765, d. Feb., 1825.

Deacon *Abner Sessions*, 8th child of Nathaniel of Pomfret, married Mrs. Mary Wyman, widow of Rev. Ebenezer Wyman, the first minister of Union, Ct., and the daughter of Josiah Wright of Woburn, Mass., May 13, 1743. She died April 26, 1782. He

d. Feb. 18, 1781. He was town clerk of Union thirty-four years, was justice of the peace, captain of the militia, and deacon of the Cong. Church, and approved himself well in every trust.

His children were:

1. Ebenezer, b. March 6, 1748, m. Huldah Howard May 18, 1769.
2. Silence, b. Feb. 1, 1749, m. James Enos, Jr., Oct. 18, 1764.
3. Mary, b. Feb. 1, 1753, m. Henry Martin of Woodstock, Ct., Nov. 14, 1771.

Abijah Sessions, 10th child of Nathaniel of Pomfret, settled in Union, receiving a gift deed of land from his father May 4, 1751. He married Joanna Dana, dau. of Isaac Dana of Pomfret, Ct. He died very suddenly April 12, 1753, in the twenty-first year of his age. His widow never again married, and became partially insane from the death of her husband. They had one son, Abijah, born June 2, 1753. Widow Joanna Sessions died March 20, 1797, aged sixty-six years.

Nathaniel Sessions, son of Amasa and Hannah of Pomfret, settled in Union; married 1st time, Irene Wales, daughter of Dea. Ebenezer Wales of Union, Nov. 16, 1775. Dea. Ebenezer Wales of Union was born at Milton, Mass. (once Dorchester), 1697. He was a great grandson of Nathaniel Wales, who came over with Rev. Richard Mather in 1635 in the ship "James of Bristol." No better man ever lived

in Union. He had twenty children. Irene was the fifteenth child. His "counsels to his children," printed in 1813, were written in 1737. Sixteen children followed him to the grave. She died Dec. 3, 1793. He married second time Fanny Chandler of Woodstock Oct. 30, 1794. He died Oct. 5, 1824.

His children were:

1. Amasa, b. June 30, 1779, m.
2. Ebenezer, b. May 11, 1781, m.
3. Susannah, b. March 29, 1785.
4. Irene, b. April 12, 1787.
5. Lydia, b. March 5, 1789.
6. Nathaniel, b. Aug. 20, 1790.
7. Fanny, b. Aug. 4, 1795, m. Wm. Eaton Nov. 28, 1822.
8. Hannah, b. Feb. 22, 1797.
9. Moses Chandler, b. March 5, 1799.
10. Polly, b. Jan. 19, 1801, d. Oct. 1, 1824.
11. Darius, b. May 8, 1804.
12. Elizabeth, b. April 2, 1807.

Fanny, the widow of Nathaniel Sessions, died March 3, 1848.

John Sessions, son of Amasa of Pomfret, married Alice Goodale of Pomfret Nov. 5, 1766.

Their children were:

1. Walter, b. May 29, 1767, d. April 23, 1768.
2. Walter, b. July 22, 1769, m. Ann Loomis July 20, 1786.
3. Hannah, b. Jan. 11, 1771.

4. Mary, b. July 21, 1772, d. July 30, 1777.
5. Alice, b. March 17, 1775, d. Aug. 16, 1777,
6. John, b. Apr. 29, 1779, m. Hannah Bugbee.
7. Alanson, b. Sept. 20, 1781.
8. Harvey, b. Sept. 29, 1785, lived at Newport, R. I

Ebenezer Sessions, son of Dea. Abner, married Huldah Hayward, daughter of Amasa Hayward of Ashford, May 18, 1769.

Their children were:

1. Abner, b. Feb. 22, 1770, m. Esther Booth, dau. of Isaac Booth.
2. Anna, b. April 1, 1773, m. Robert Paul, d. Feb. 22, 1861.
3. Polly, b. April 9, 1775, died young.
4. Orinda, b. March 14, 1778, d. April 11, 1778.
5. Orinda, b. Oct. 18, 1779, d. April 27, 1845.
6. Ebenezer, b. May 7, 1782.

Abner Sessions, son of Ebenezer and Huldah, married Esther Booth, daughter of Isaac Booth of Union.

Their children were:

1. John H., b. June 4, 1797.
2. Isaac Booth, b. May 26, 1799, d. in infancy.
3. Polly, b. April 14, 1801.
4. Abner, b. Aug. 12, 1803.
5. Elvira, b. Dec. 20, 1805.
6. Sarah, b. May 28, 1808.
7. Otis
8. Diantha } b. Aug. 25, 1810.

9. Isaac Booth, b. Jan. 7, 1813.
10. Martin, b. Oct. 16, 1815.
11. Truman, b. Feb. 20, 1818.
12. Melissa, b. April 16, 1820.

Ebenezer Sessions, son of Ebenezer and Huldah, married Sally Hawes, dau. of Elijah Hawes of Union, Nov. 21, 1805.

Children were:

1. Orsell, b. July 6, 1806, m.
2. Gilbert, b. May 25, 1809, killed by bursting of grindstone.
3. Elijah, b. May 31, 1811, went to the Mormons.
4. Caroline, b. Feb. 20, 1815, m.
5. Mary Ann, b. July 9, 1817, m.
6. Amos, b. July 17, 1819, m.

Ebenezer Sessions after living at Union many years moved to the town of Lisle, Broome Co., N. Y.,where his descendants live. (Inquire of Gilman L. Sessions and Judson Smith, Esq., Binghamton, N. Y.)

Walter Sessions, son of John and Alice, married Anne Loomis, dau. of Lieut. Daniel Loomis of Union, July 20, 1786.

Their children were:

1. Alice, b. Oct. 19, 1786.
2. Sarah, b. Oct. 21, 1788.
3. Anna, b. Jan. 9, 1793.
4. Charlotte, b. Feb. 21, 1795.
5. John Schuyler, b. March 20, 1797.
6. Daniel Loomis, b. Feb. 1, 1800.

Anna Sessions, daughter of Ebenezer and Huldah, married Robert Paul, son of Matthew Paul, Nov. 14, 1793. She was born April 1, 1773, and died Feb. 22, 1861, in the eighty-eighth year of her age. Robert Paul died Dec. 21, 1821.

Their children were:

1. Polly, b. April 9, 1794, m. Dr. Shubael Hammond of Union and d. Aug. 18, 1863.
2. Elizabeth, b. Oct. 9, 1795, m. Moses White, d. July, 1860.
3. Anna, b. , d. March 26, 1802.
4. Chauncey, b. Feb. 10, 1798, m. Polly Armour.
5. Marcia, b. Oct. 22, 1799, m. Lyman Sessions of Woodstock, Ct.
6. Newman, b. March 1, 1803, d. Oct., 1859.

Col. Abijah Sessions, the son of Abijah and Joanna, was born June 2, 1753, and died May 22, 1834. He married Hannah May, dau. of Nehemiah May of Holland, Feb. 8, 1778.

Their children were:

1. William Pitt, b. Feb. 9, 1779, m. 1st, Elizabeth Rogers, who died July 11, 1840, aged 59, m. 2d, Laura Morris, d. without issue in 1859, aged 80.
2. Sarah Winchester, b. Sept. 5, 1780, m. Hendrick Griggs of Ashford.
3. Louisa, b. March 10, 1782, m. Charles Foster June 6, 1809.
4. Joanna, b. Feb. 11, 1784.

5. Polly or Mary, b. Feb. 18, 1786.
6. Hannah, b. Dec. 11, 1789, m. E. Sumner Keyes of Ashford.
7. Abijah, b. April 12, 1791, m. Elizabeth Childs of Woodstock May 25, 1814.
8. Lyman, b. April 7, 1793, m. Marcia Paul Jan. 16, 1823.
9. Olive, b. Nov. 24, 1794, m. Asa Morse of Woodstock May 20, 1824.

Louisa Sessions, daughter of Col. Abijah Sessions, and his wife Hannah, m. Chas. Foster, son of Edward Foster, Esq., of Union, June 6, 1809.

Their children were:

1. Charles May Foster, b. Sept. 2, 1811, lives at Stockbridge, N. Y.
2. Hannah Newell, b. June 7, 1813.
3. Louisa, b. March 21, 1816.

Hannah Sessions, daughter of Col. Abijah Sessions, and Ed. Sumner Keyes, born July 2, 1784, were married and had children. They lived in Ashford. Some of the children of E. Sumner Keyes are very enterprising. Gilman L. Sessions, Esq., of Binghamton, N. Y., their cousin, can tell about them.

Abijah Sessions of Woodstock, son of Col. Abijah and Hannah, married Elizabeth Childs of Woodstock May 25, 1814. He married second time Mrs. Calista C. L. Lyon, widow of Sanford Lyon.

His children, all by his first wife, were:

*1. Alexander H., b. Jan. 7, 1816, m. Harriet Hamilton of Brookfield, Mass.
2. Roxa Childs, b. Sept. 17, 1818.
3. Jared Dana, b. Dec. 27, 1820, m. 1st, Miranda Hamilton of Brookfield, Mass., m. 2d, Laura W. Walker, dau. of Harvey Walker of Union.
*4. Meletiah, b. April 16, 1823.
*5. Bethiah, b. Feb. 22, 1827.
*6. Mary Anne, b. Oct. 11, 1829.
*7. Louisa Foster, b. Nov. 11, 1834.

Lyman Sessions of Woodstock, son of Col. Abijah, married Marcia Paul, dau. of Robert Paul and Anna Sessions, Jan. 16, 1823. Mrs. M. P. Sessions died December 5, 1868, aged sixty-nine.

Their children were:

1. Joanna, b.
2. Gilman L., b. Feb. 14, 1830.
*3. Marcia, b.

Alexander Hamilton Sessions, son of Abijah and Elizabeth, married Harriet Hamilton of Brookfield, Mass.

Their child is:

*1. Harriet.

Jared Dana Sessions, son of Abijah and Elizabeth, married first, Miranda Hamilton of Brookfield, Mass., by whom he had two children. She died. He mar-

* Gilman L. Sessions is the proper reference for his cousins and their families.

ried second time, Laura W. Walker, dau. of Harvey Walker of Union, and had one son. He died suddenly in June, 186–, at the Massasoit Home in Springfield. His residence was at Malden, Mass. He had resided at Union, at Sturbridge, at Toronto, at Binghamton, and had houses at Boston, New York, and Montgomery, Alabama. He was a man of great wealth, and his estate was accumulated by his own industry. A most interesting memoir was published, written by Gilman L. Sessions, Esq., of Binghamton, N. Y., his cousin and partner in business.

The names of his three children are:

1. Vena, b.
2. Ada, b.
3. Harvey, b.

The widow of Jared D. Sessions married last spring Rev. Samuel I. Curtis, son of Rev. Samuel I. Curtis of Union. He is now a minister in New York city. He graduated at Amherst College in 1867.

Col. Moses Chandler Sessions, son of Nathaniel and Fanny Chandler of Union, m. 1st, Elizabeth Kinney, dau. of Joel Kinney, m. 2d, —— Corbin, m. 3d, —— ——— of Kansas.

His children, all by his first, were:

1. Nathaniel, b. Feb. 21, 1822.
2. Elizabeth Chloe, b. Aug. 12, 1824, m. Foster Town.
3. Maria Louise, b. Aug. 14, 1826, m. Orlan Nelson.
4. Horace Warner, b. July 24, 1828.

5. Amanda Melissa, b. June 29, 1830, m. Jared Converse of Douglass, Mass.
6. Sarah Lucinda, b. Dec. 21, 1832.
7. Susan Mary, b. May 21, 1835.
8. Ellen Jane, b. Jan. 22, 1841.
9. Moses Chandler, b. July 30, 1844, lives in California.

Col. Sessions lived most of his life in Union. He died in Kansas.

Gilman L. Sessions of Binghamton, N. Y., son of Lyman Sessions of Woodstock, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1853. He studied law, and settled in Binghamton, where he has a high reputation in his profession. He m. —— Bartlett, and has no family.

Samuel Sessions of Union, son of Amasa of Pomfret, married Argail Ruggles of Pomfret Oct. 11, 1767, and had children. He settled in Heath, Mass. The following names of his family have been obtained. He went from Union to Westford, and then to Heath.

1. George, b. , bap. at Union Jan. 20, 1771.
2. Nancy, b.
3. Persis, b.

Nathaniel Sessions, son of Moses C. Sessions of Union, lived at Worcester, and has a family. He married Harriet Ruby, daughter of Thomas Ruby of Union. I have not the names of his children.

There were families of Sessions living in Westford, Ct., many years ago; also in Mansfield. A large number of Sessions are in Lisle, N. Y., the descendants of the Mansfield branch, who went from Pomfret. Gilman L. Sessions of Binghamton can give information as to this branch.

The wife of Ebenezer Lawson, son of John, born Jan. 26, 1760, of Union, was Elizabeth Sessions, the daughter of Joseph Sessions.

Their children were:

1. Nicholas, b.
2. Sessions, b. , lived at Bolton, Ct.
3. Thomas, b.
4. Betsey, b.
5. Roxanna, b. , m. Stephen Hiscock.
6. Jane Brown, b. Sept. 28, 1795.

Who Joseph Sessions was, genealogically, I do not know. David Lawson of Union can tell if anybody can. I will write to him at once. Sessions Lawson of Bolton, Ct., was a man greatly respected. He was a member of the Senate in Connecticut, once at least, and several times in the lower house. His grandfather, Joseph Sessions, cannot belong to the Union families.

The following is what my father, Amasa Sessions, late of Marcellus, Onondaga county, N. Y., says of the family, under date of August 31, 1838: "Nathaniel Sessions from England died at Pomfret 1771, aged ninety-one. Two brothers came over with him. His sons were, John and Nathaniel,

Abner, Abijah, Alexander, Amasa, Darius and Simeon. The first two died young, the others had few children, except Amasa, who was a captain in the French war with Putnam. He was a man of great strength and courage, became fleshy and heavy. Honorable mention is made of him as a man of business and integrity on his grave-stone in Pomfret, where he lived and died in 1799, aged eighty-four years. His sons were, John, Samuel, Amasa, Nathaniel, Robert, Squire and Abner. All married and had children, and I think died in Connecticut except Robert. Nathaniel lived in Union, and died there in 1824, aged seventy-four years; a farmer; he had two wives, Inna Wales and Fanny Chandler; by each he had six children, to-wit: Amasa, Ebenezer, Nathaniel, Susanna, Inna, Lidia, Fanny, Hannah, Polly, Moses C., Darius and Eliza. All that are living are in New York or Michigan. Amasa had three wives and nine children by the second, Phebe Robins Smith, to-wit: Sila, Alonzo, Job S., George W., Jared M., Amasa, John, Dorcas and Elizabeth. My brother, Nathaniel, has seventeen children, fourteen of whom are living, to-wit: Charles, Matilda, William, Inna, Sidney, Harvey, Amasa, Asinus, Jane, Mary and Julia (twins), Nathaniel, John and Symeon. My father has at this time ten living children, and fifty-nine grandchildren.

"The blotted letter you mailed to me, and which I return is in my father's hand. He died in November, 1838, aged fifty-eight years, at Skaneateles, N. Y.

"His brother, Nathaniel, is living in Ionia county, Mich., aged eighty-six or eighty-seven, and nearly all his children live here.

Very truly,

"ALONZO SESSIONS.

"Shall be pleased to meet you here in October."

Family record of George D. Sessions, son of George Sessions, deceased, and now residing at Mattawan, Van Buren co., Mich., the record of the family of said George Sessions having previously been forwarded by J. Q. A. Sessions of Ann Arbor, who is a brother of said George D. Sessions.

Names.	*Births.*	*Deaths.*
Adelaide J. Sessions.....	July 21, 1854.....	.....
Juliaette N. Sessions.....	March 22, 1857.....	July 4, 1859.
Carrie L. Sessions.....	February 5, 1859....	.....
Julia M. Sessions.....	August 31, 1860.....	.....

C. E. Sessions to F. C. Sessions.

Arkansas City, Ark., *March* 28, 1884.

Dear Sir — I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken in addressing you upon the subject. Being desirous of obtaining, if possible, the family tree on my father's side, I thought you could give me some information. My grandfather, Richard Sessions, and Joseph Sessions, moved from North Carolina to Natchez, Miss., where my grandfather

became a planter, and my great-uncle, Joseph Sessions, with others, established the first bank in the State of Mississippi. My father moved to this State in 1843, and from here he moved to Jacksonville, Ill., where he now resides. He says he had relations who moved to Ohio and New York State, but could not give me any information in regard to them. Having heard of you several times, through parties I hope you will not consider it impertinence on my part in writing to you, and if you can give me any information you will do so, as to where your family were from, and also the address of any of the family who are now living in New York.

CHARLES E. SESSIONS TO F. C. SESSIONS.

JACKSONVILLE, ILL., *May* 19, 1884.

MY DEAR SIR — Some time since your kind letter was received, and I should have replied sooner, but have been trying to gain all the light on the subject of our ancestors that I could. I have made a rough sketch of a family tree as far back as my great grandfather, who was from North Carolina, and send it to you. My father's cousin, Miss Eliza Sessions of Philadelphia, has traced our family back to France, our family being descendants of one of the leaders of the crusaders. I will get a copy of the genealogical tree from her and send it to you and suppose it will give us all the light upon the subject

we will wish. If we do not succeed in tracing up our relationship, I am glad to have made your acquaintance, and hope we will have the pleasure of meeting. I am on a short visit to my father's, he having moved north to educate his children. I am delighted with the country, and if I can find employment will locate in the north. Cotton planting, which has been my profession for several years, has become so unprofitable that I desire to abandon it, as we are overflowed every season. Our whole country was still under water when I left it three weeks ago, with but little prospect for a crop this season.

C. E. Sessions to F. C. Sessions.

Jacksonville, Ill., *May* 25, 1884.

My Dear Sir — Herewith find enclosed the printed matter you so kindly sent me to read. It was a source of great pleasure to my father and I to read it. Father says he would be delighted should you ever come to Jacksonville to have you visit him. He is now sixty-eight years of age, but holds his age remarkably well. I noted your correspondence with cousin James P. Sessions, who now lives in Lexington, Miss. Mr. Daniel H. Sessions, my uncle, lives at Australia, Bolivar co., Miss.; he and my father are the only two children of my grandfather now living. The wife of uncle Joseph lives in Natchez, Miss.; his sons John G. and Richard are planters in

Washington co., Miss., P. O. Glenallen. One of his daughters, Susie G., married a Mr. Geo. McConnell, a planter in same county, P. O. Leota, Miss. The oldest child, a daughter, Annie, single, still lives with her mother, all in good circumstances.

My brothers, William A. and Horace W., are planting on the Arkansas river, P. O., Auburn, Lincoln co., Ark., both quite young and single men. My two younger brothers are with my father; my sister, Mrs. Walker's home, is at Wrightsville, Pulaski co., Ark., on the Little Rock & Arkansas City R. R. There are no professional men in any of our families, all having chosen the occupation of our fathers. You will find enclosed the births, marriages and deaths in my grandfather's family as copied from his old family Bible, also of my father's family up to date. I leave for the west sometime during the early part of next month, with the view of locating, as I find wages very small here and employment hard to obtain. My family will remain with my father until fall.

P. S.—My father's name is Richard K. I noticed in one of the pieces you sent me that you had written a book on your travels in the Old World; please let me know the name of it, as I would like to procure it and read it.

Family Record.

MARRIAGES.

Richard Sessions married Nancy Cordill February 12, 1804.

William B. Sessions married Susannah Bisland December 23, 1830.

Joseph W. Sessions married Maria C. Galispie May 18, 1847.

Daniel Helon Sessions married Theodosie P. Taylor December 8, 1853.

Richard Richardson Sessions married Mary Francis Gibson May 18, 1853.

Ann Maria Sessions married George Kellogg of New York State in year 1827, do not know the month.

Malinda Sessions married William Alexander February 27, 1823.

Catharine Sessions married Simpson H. Holmes February 6, 1833.

Catharine S. Holmes married Archibald Goodlove in 1840, do not know the month.

BIRTHS.

Ann Maria Sessions, born January 31, 1805.

Melinda Sessions, born August 11, 1806.

William B. Sessions, born January 16, 1808.

Joseph W. Sessions, born August 25, 1809.

Catharine Sessions, born November 22, 1812.

A. Jackson Sessions, born November 2, 1814.

Richard Richardson Sessions, born March 27, 1816.

Charles R. Sessions, born September 13, 1817.

Daniel H. Sessions, born February 8, 1819.

Richard Sessions, born July 5, 1779.

Nancy C. Sessions, born July 5, 1789; my grandfather and grandmother.

Sarah Elizabeth Sessions, born March 3, 1824.
Mary R. Alexander, born April 8, 1824.
Theodore S. Alexander, born September 5, 1825.
Elizabeth Dunbar Holmes, born August 17, 1834.
Laura Ann Kellogg, born October 14, 1831.
Amelia Kellogg, born August 30, 1834.
Peter R. Sessions, born April 10, 1837.

The above copied from my grandfather's old family Bible, which I find my father has. Though my father's marriage is in the above, I will give also copy from our family Bible.

MARRIAGES.

In St. Louis county, Mo., Richard R. Sessions to Mary F. Gibson, May 18, 1853.

In Lake Village, Ark., Charles E. Sessions to Mamie J. Hutchins of Natchez, Miss., September 12, 1878.

Harry Walker of Columbus, Ark., to Lulu B. Sessions of Jacksonville, Ill., May 6, 1884.

BIRTHS.

Richard R. Sessions, born in Adams co., Miss. March 27, 1816.

Mary F. Gibson, born in Franklin, St. Mary's parish, La., September 12, 1831.

Charles E. Sessions, born in Chicot co., Ark., March 25, 1854.

John G. Sessions, born in St. Louis co., Mo., July 25, 1855.

Louisa B. Sessions, born in Chicot co., Ark., November 21, 1856.

James G. Sessions, born in St. Louis co., Mo., August 2, 1859.

William A. Sessions, born in Chicot co., Ark., June 26, 1861.

Horace Walworth Sessions, born in St. Louis co., Mo., April 3, 1864.

Frances D. Sessions, born in Chicot co., Ark., August 10, 1866.

French K. Sessions, born in Chicot co., Ark., February 23, 1868.

Arthur Lee Sessions, born in Chicot co., Ark., April 29, 1870.

Richard Mackie Sessions, born in Chicot co., Ark., October 8, 1880.
Aubin Arent Sessions, b. in Chicot co., Ark., May 27, 1882.
} These are my children.

DEATHS.

Died, John G. Sessions, October 7, 1856, in Chicot co., Ark.

Died, James G. Sessions, July 17, 1862, in Chicot co., Ark.

Died, Arthur L. Sessions, October 19, 1882, in Jacksonville, Ill.

DEATHS COPIED FROM MY GRANDFATHER'S OLD FAMILY BIBLE.

Sarah Elizabeth, died May 17, 1824.

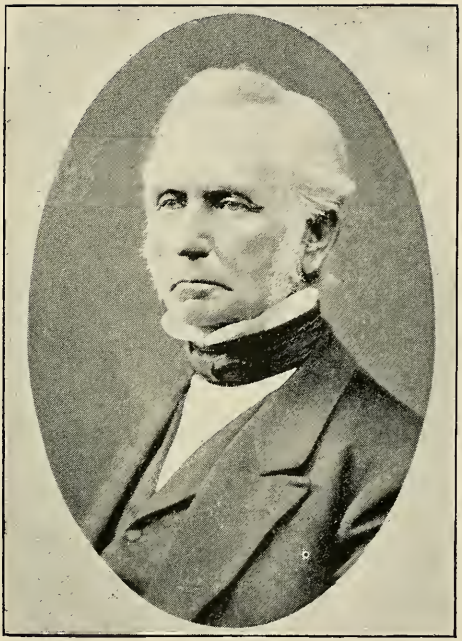
Malinda Alexander, died February 17, 1833.

Andrew Jackson, died September 3, 1836.
Simpson H. Holmes, died October 4, 1835.
Ann M. Kellogg, died July 24, 1839.
George Kellogg, died March 19, 1840.
Nancy C. Sessions died July 20, 1839, in Kentucky.
Richard Sessions, died October 3, 1824.
William B. Sessions, died September 5, 1853.
Joseph W. Sessions, died on steamship "United States," *en route* for New York from New Orleans, and was buried at sea June 8, 1870.
Catharine Goodlaw, died April 28, 1861, in Lexington, Ky.
Peter R. Sessions, died October 17, 1872, son of William B. Sessions, and only heir.

MOULTRIE MCK. SESSIONS TO F. C. SESSIONS.

MARIETTA, GA., *June* 11, 1886.

DEAR SIR — Your very kind letter of 10th inst. just received, enclosing the letters in reference to our family. I have glanced over them hurriedly, but will take time to examine them carefully, and before I return them to you I want to copy all of them. My father was born March 12, 1827, in Spalding co., Ga. His father's name was Asa; his grandfather, John Sessions, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was a member of Marion's and Moultrie's command. Father had a brother Amasa,



Rev. JOHN SESSIONS,
Oakland, Cal.

who was killed in the late war on Kenesaw Mt., this county (Cobb) and State. Father married a Miss Melisa McKinney of Cherokee co., Ga., on August 25, 1862. He has seven children, Moultrie McKinney Sessions, born August 22, 1863, admitted to the bar in November, 1882, admitted to practice in Supreme Court of the State in December, 1882; Walter L., born April 9, 1865, in the mercantile business; Sallie W. and Susie M. (twins), born November 29, 1866; Carrie, born October 2, 1868; George Hazelhurst, born January 20, 1873, and Lena F. J., born October 6, 1875. All of the family are members of the Methodist Church. Father has been a member of two of our general conferences, and was an alternate to the last one. I was a member of the last North Georgia Annual Conference that met in Newman.

When father went on the bench he was just a little past thirty years, and was the youngest judge of the Superior Court in the State. Was mayor of this city last year, but declined to serve another term. His full name is William Moultrie Sessions. Will return your letters you so kindly sent me as soon as I can find time to copy them. Hope to see you some time.

P. S. — I send you by this mail the "Marietta Journal," with a card from my father, declining to make the race for Congress; it also has a nice piece about him from the editors.

J. F. Sessions to F. C. Sessions.

Brookhaven, Miss., *June* 13, 1888.

My Dear Sir — A young cousin (Will. Sessions) has given me your name and address, and has stated that you are not only familiar with the history of the family in America, but that you have, in printed form, interesting genealogical dates. If you have any thing of the kind I would like, if it is possible to do so, to procure a copy, and it is for the purpose of making inquiry on the subject that I trouble you with this letter.

My father, Jesse Sessions, was born in North Carolina in 1783, was a son of Richard Sessions and Esther Boone (a niece of Daniel Boone) of North Carolina. I cannot trace the family history further back, but believe from correspondence had many years ago with Walter L. Sessions of Panama, N. Y., that the various branches of the name throughout the United States are descended from a John Sessions, who came over from England in 1688 as secretary to the Colonel Governor of Connecticut.

Would be gratified to hear from you at your convenience, such items of the family history as you may have time to give.

ESTRAYS.

E. J. SESSIONS, Warren City, Miss., died in 1856; held life insurance policy number 8,418 for $10,000 in Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. (See Report, 1856.)

Alonzo Sessions was postmaster in New Berlin-Ionia county, Mich., 1857.

Darius Sessions, March, 1778, appointed surveyor by State Council. (Hall's History Eastern Vermont.)

Nathan B. Sessions, Abington, Conn.; sons (1859) Josiah and Milton in San Francisco, Cal.

Letha Ann Sessions, married in Warren county, Miss., about April 1, 1859, to John W. Walls. (*N. O. Delta*, April 2, 1859.)

Robert Sessions, sailor on clipper *Challenge*, 1859.

Rev. J. J. Sessions, Monroe county, Ala., died June 20, 1857; for many years a pastor of the Baptist Church. (Crosby's American Obituary Notices.)

Stephen C. Sessions, Louisville, Ky. (corner Sixth and Green streets), August 21, 1869. Have been a resident several years; am a native of Georgetown, S. C.

Married in Brimfield, Mass., April 28, 1859, J. E, Tyler to Miss Sarah E. Sessions of Brimfield. (*Boston Weekly Journal*, May 19, 1859.)

Died in Providence, R. I., April 29, 1859, Eliz. V. Sessions, daughter of Darius Sessions. (*Providence Journal*, May 6, 1859.)

Ebenezer Sessions was appointed ensign of the Seventh Company, Sixth Battalion of Militia (raised to reinforce the army in Canada), by the Connecticut Assembly, June 14, 1776, and reported on duty October 3, 1776. (Folio 874, vol. 6, series 4, American Archives.)

Extract from *American State Papers* (published by Gales & Seaton for Congress, 1832, vol. 16; "Public Lands," vol. 1; "Register A and B," pp. 866, 870 873, 892.):

ABSTRACT *of Certificate entered with the Register of Land Office west of Pearl River, during June and July, grounded on British or Spanish Patents.*

When entered.	Number.	Date.	Recorded.		TO WHOM GRANTED.	Original grantee.	Number of acres.	Date of patent.
1805.		1805.	Vol.	Page.				
June 20	158	May 8	1	504	Joseph Sessions	Ant. Hogarth	125	Aug. 14, 1794
July 15	408	July 9	2	233	Joseph Sessions	Jas. Perry	100	Oct. 9, 1777
Aug. 28	510	Aug. 26	2	463	Joseph Sessions	Wm. Ratliff	200	Mar. 12, 1790
1807.		1807.						
Feb. 18	176	Feb. 11	4	205	Philip Sessions, assignee of William Glascock	Wm. Glascock	170	Mar. 30, 1798
Feb. 20	186	Feb. 13	4	215	Joseph Sessions, assignee of John Mitchell	John Mitchell	640	Mar. 30, 1798
Feb. 20	190	Feb. 13	4	219	Richard Sessions	Robt. Sheffield	536	Mar. 30, 1798

(Vol. 17, vol. 2, page 248: Application of Philip Sessions, No. 324, date April 23, 1808, tract of land

on Second Creek, 160 acres. Date of Permission, August 28, 1808.)

Sessions, of Bunker Hill, was prisoner of war in Halifax prison, and sick, with other parties, September 5, 1776. (Folio 190, vol. 2, series 5, American Archives.)

Anna Sessions, Providence, R. I., was appointed principal of Fountain Street School. (*Rhode Island Country Journal*, July 29, 1859.)

Extract from a paper published in Philadelphia, Penn., October, 1844:

"*A paragraph of interest.*— An antiquarian of the year 1800 records the facts that in 1771 died Mr. Nathaniel Sessions, the father of Governor Sessions of Rhode Island. He was one of the first settlers of Pomfret, Conn., as early as 1704. He opened the first cart-road from that town to Providence in 1721, when, from Killingly to within ten miles from Providence — a distance of sixteen miles — there was no human dwelling. He transported the first cart-load of West India goods from Providence to Connecticut. Enjoying good health he was enabled to cultivate his farm and conduct business until he was eighty-eight years of age, when he became blind. He committed to memory the New Testament, Psalms and a portion of the Old Testament after he was eighty years of age. He died at Pomfret, aged ninety-one."

EARLY GENERATIONS OF THE SESSIONS FAMILY.

ALEXANDER Sessions, born about 1645, was living in Andover, Mass., in 1669, where he died February 26, 1688–9, married Elizabeth, dau. of John Spofford of Rowley, April 24, 1672, who after his decease married a Mr. Low. Mr. Sessions and wife were members of the church in Andover in 1686 until their decease. Their children living in 1697, were :

Elizabeth, b. in 1673, who, perhaps, was the wife of Richard Carrier, married July 18, 1694, and had children born in Andover : i. Elizabeth, b. 1695. ii. John, b. 1697.

John, b. Oct. 4, 1674, who was alive June 16, 1705.

Alexander, b. Oct. 3, 1676.

Timothy, b. April 14, 1678 ; alive 1696–7.

Samuel, b. March 8, 1680 ; drowned at Boxford, Mass., Dec. 6, 1750 ; married Mary Cox or Cock on Feb. 17, 1707–8, and had children.

Nathaniel, b. Aug. 8, 1681 ; settled in Pomfret, Ct., before Oct., 1765, and had children.

Josiah, b. May 2, 1684; d. Dec. 30, 1724, in Bradford, where all his children were under six years of age; in Sept., 1725, married Anna, whose mother was a widow, Mary Cole. Anna married Samuel Runnels of Bradford, 1730.

Joseph, b. March 28, 1686, who was living at Pomfret, Ct., 1713, and alive 1752 (see deed 99, 205).

Abial, b. about 1688, unmarried June, 1713; b. had married —— Dorman before April, 1752; was then probably residing in York county, Me.

SAMUEL, b. 1680; had children:

Sarah, b. 1708–9; d. Jan. 7, 1709.

Samuel, b. 1710; d. April 24, 1746, in the 36th year of his age; married Hannah Gray on Jan. 18, 1740, who, after Mr. Sessions died, married Deacon David Foster of Ahashulot on May 31, 1750.

Timothy, who was probably b. 1711, as he died Nov., 1763, aged 52; married Abigail Black of Boxford about Nov. 1738, and probably she married Amos Kimball about July, 1765.

A child, b. Aug. 17, 1712.

Mary, b. Sept. 7, 1714; d. July 19, 1736, aged 22 (see grave-stone).

David, b. Jan. 25, 1718; d. in his country's service at Crown Point, about Dec., 1756; married Mary Lancksford, Dec. 29, 1743, who after his death, married John Long before Oct., 1765.

JOSIAH, b. 1684; had children:

Martha, b. in Bradford, Sept. 16, 1717.

John, b. in Bradford, June 26, 1723.

Josiah, b. about 1725, was probably the only child of his father in 1752 (see his deed, 99, 166); married Martha Hopkinson, March 8, 1749.

Elizabeth, a spinster, when she died her brother Josiah was appointed admr. of her estate, June, 1747.

SAMUEL, b. 1710; had children:

Sarah, b. in Andover, Nov. 6, 1740; married previous to July 14, 1760, Michael Gillson, and settled in Westminster, "N. H." [Vt.?] before June 24, 1763. She d. Nov. 1, 1815.

John, b. in Andover, June 9, 1742, and was in Westminster, June 24, 1763.

TIMOTHY, b. probably 1711; had one child, Mary, b. May 9, 1740; married Stephen Johnson March 30, 1758.

DAVID, b. 1718; had children:

Mehitable, b. in Andover, Aug. 19, 1744; married before Feb. 29, 1777, Asa Rowell, and was in Salem, N. H., in 1777 and 1783.

Samuel, b. Feb. 11, 1747; resided at Andover, 1777, and in Londonderry, 1783; he probably was of Andover, April 19, 1775, when he marched under John Adams of Capt. Lovejoy's company from Andover to Cambridge.

David, b. May 11, 1749, was a shoemaker in Boxford, 1777, and in Deerfield (now Manchester), N. H., 1783.

Mary, b. Oct. 30, 1751, probably died young, as two young children died, between 1757 and 1765.

Darius, b. about 1765, as he was eleven years old in 1769; was in Andover, 1777. A daughter, b. Sept. 29, 1755, and perhaps, a twin to Darius, and probably one of the two young children that died 1757–63.

JOSIAH, b. about 1725; had one child:

Josiah, his will of 1784 proved 1794; married Martha Merrill; had children:

Elizabeth, who died a single woman in Bradford, Dec. 17, 1834.

Sarah, who was mentioned by her father in his will, 1784.

Nathaniel, under twenty-one in 1784 (see his father's will).

Stephen, b. in Boxford, Dec. 26, 1775, was alive in 1834.

DESCENDANTS OF NATHANIEL SESSIONS.

BY JAY SESSIONS.

NATHANIEL Sessions, b. 1680; d. 1771; had son:

Amasa, b. 1715; d. 1799, who had son:

Nathaniel, b. June 10, 1750; d. Oct. 5, 1824; married 1st, Irene Wales, b. Aug. 3, 1750; d. Dec. 3, 1793, and had five children: Amasa, b. June 3, 1779; d. Nov. 13, 1838; Ebenezer, b. May 11, 1781; d. Dec. 25, 1855; Susanna, b. March 29, 1783; d. June 17, 1861; Irene, b. April 12, 1785; d. Aug. 18, 1835; Lydia, b. March 5, 1787; d. Feb. 2, 1867. He married 2d, Fanny, b. Jan. 16, 1759; d. March 3, 1843; and had three children: Fanny, b. Aug. 15, 1795; Hannah, b. Feb. 22, 1797; d. Nov. 25, 1865; Moses C., b. March 5, 1799; d. Sept. 17, 1868.

Nathaniel, b. Aug. 20, 1790; d. March 15, 1880; married Chloe Thompson, b. Sept. 26, 1798; d. Nov. 14, 1879; settled in Ionia county, Mich., and had seventeen children, as follows: Charles, b. Dec. 20, 1817; d. Feb. 13, 1889; married 1st, Miriam Cooley, and had two children:

Cynthia, b. July 8, 1842; married Frank Abbott, b. Nov. 26, 1838, and had two children: Claud Abbott, b. Aug. 10, 1868, and Nellie Abbott, b. April 27, 1870.

Nathan, b. Feb. 1, 1844; d. Feb. 12, 1864, enlisted in Ninth Michigan Infantry, and died in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Married 2d, Mary Baldwin Ryan, b. March 15, 1819; d. April 21, 1880; and had six children, all born in Clinton county, Mich.:

Amelia, b. Feb. 4, 1847; married Horace Winans, and had five children: Nellie, b. Feb. 27, 1866; married Frank Phillips, and had child, Grace Phillips, b. March 20, 1889. Edna, b. June 26, 1870; Lee, b. Oct. 10, 1877; Ina, b. Sept. 12, 1884; and Mary, who died May 5, 1889.

Emily, b. May 26, 1849; married Henry W. Blakeslee, b. March 17, 1844, and had five children: Blanche, b. Nov. 3, 1871; Bertha, b. Oct. 20, 1874; May, b. July 10, 1876; Katie, b. April 23, 1879; Ina, b. July 21, 1881; Mary, b. March 12, 1852; married Edmund B. Warne, and had two children: Vera, b. Jan. 25, 1884; d. Sept. 17, 1884, and Selah, b. Aug. 2, 1885.

Jay, b. Aug. 5, 1854; married Ella Stoughton, b. May 23, 1859, and had two children: Irma, b. April 29, 1880, and Irma, b. Oct. 4, 1885.

Ray, b. April 2, 1859; m. 1st, Ida Waffle, and had Mildred, b. June 20, 1882; married 2d, Lizzie Float, and had: Nina, b. Dec. 19, 1887; Nina, b. March, 1890.

Belle, b. Nov. 23, 1863; d. Sept. 14, 1887; married E. C. Taylor, b. April 11, 1861, and had a child, b. Dec. 31, 1884; d. young; and May, b. Feb. 2, 1887.

Infant daughter, deceased.

Matilda, b. March 15, 1820; married Nathan Mount, b. March 30, 1820; d. Feb. 8, 1876, and had two children: Julia Mount, b. Nov. 24, 1844; d. Jan. 17, 1883; married 1st, George Judson; 2d, Giles Congdon, and had by her first husband two children: Tilla Judson, b. Sept. 4, 1871, and Ella Judson, who died, aged sixteen months. Albert Mount married Cora V. Owen, and had two children: Fairy and Archie.

William, b. May 2, 1821; married Julia Jennings, b. Feb. 13, 1832, and had three children: Marian, b. Jan. 2, 1855; d. Aug. 27, 1859; Clarence W., b. Feb. 8, 1859; married Mary S. Foot, b. Aug. 19, 1863, and had two children: Margery F., b. Dec. 25, 1883, and a son, b. April 2, 1890; John F. b. Dec. 23, 1862; married Louisa Fowle, and had two children: William Lee, b. April 14, 1888, and Hazel, b. Dec. 22, 1889.

Irene, b. May 21, 1823; d. March 2, 1863; married Ora Stiles, and had eight children: son died in infancy; William died in Texas in Civil War;

daughter died in infancy; Anna, married James Hanes, and had six children: Ora, Rena, Thomas, Harry, Jessie and Teddie; Frank, married Estella, and had one child: Ray; Jay, Ray and Louis.

Son, died in infancy.

Harvey, b. June 8, 1826; shot in army, March 21, 1865; married Sarah Smith, and had son, Charlie, b. July 31, 1859; d. April, 1873.

Sidney, b. July 19, 1828; married 1st, Libbie Wallace; 2d, Sarah Stoddard, and had by the latter, Harry, b. Jan. 31, 1865; married Minnie Morse.

Amasa, b. Jan. 28, 1831; m. Mary Vredenburgh, b. March 21, 1837, and had five children: Alta, who married Martin Sprague, and had one daughter; Loa, Ettie, Clark, who married Jennie Berry and had one son, Elmer, b. April 22, 1888; Arthur and Nathan.

Alcinous Y., b. Feb. 15, 1833; married Charlotte Covill, b. Sept. 10, 1838, and had five children: Ida J., b. Aug. 9, 1858; d. Dec. 24, 1878; married D. C. Cagwin; Minnie, b. March 23, 1860; d. Feb. 18, 1884; married Oliver Ely, and had Lottie, b. March 25, 1880; Herbert, b. June 21, 1862; married Lillie Gardner, and had four children: son died in infancy; Fred. A., b. Sept. 13, 1885; Mabel, b. July 3, 1887, and Ida, b. Dec. 27, 1888; Flora B., b. Feb. 18, 1869; Cora A., b. Nov. 9, 1870; d. Oct. 18, 1881.

Clarissa, b. April 21, 1835; died.

Jane, b. Jan. 15, 1836; married Hiram Blanchard, b.

Nov. 21, 1832, and had four children: Ella, Matie, George M. and Gracie.

Mary, b. Dec. 13, 1838; d. July 2, 1858.

Julia, b. Dec. 13, 1838; married Charles H. Morse, and had five children: Infant, deceased, John, Mark, Noel and Katie.

Nathaniel, b. April 24, 1841; married Addie Smith, b. Sept. 1, 1843, and had six children: Orphus, Harvey, Eddie, Edith, Burton and Porter.

John, b. April 9, 1843; married Ella Brayton; wounded in Battle of Wilderness in May, 1864; d. at Washington, D. C., Aug. 26, 1864.

Lyman T., b. Feb. 4, 1846; married Sarah Wing, and had three children: Myrtie, Leo and Rodney.

NATHANIEL SESSIONS.

NATHANIEL Sessions was born in Connecticut, August 20, 1790, and died in North Plains township, Ionia county, Mich., March 15, 1880, at the age of 89 years, 6 months and 20 days. He lived in Connecticut until twenty-five years of age, and then went to Onondaga county, N. Y., where he married Chloe Thompson, November 4, 1816. She died in North Plains township, Ionia county, Mich., November 14, 1870.

In the fall of 1836, he came to Michigan and located some land in North Plains township, Ionia county, Mich., and in the spring of 1837, he moved his family into his new home which was then an unbroken wilderness. No white settlers within five miles, and separated by Maple river, which could be crossed only by fording. Indians, wolves and bears were present in large numbers.

They moved from Detroit with two yokes of oxen hitched to a wagon, which contained their household goods, etc. He lived on this farm the balance of his life.

There were born to them seventeen children — fourteen of whom lived to reach maturity, and thirteen were married. Fifty grandchildren, forty-eight great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild, making a total of one hundred and eleven descendants. Of this number there are living at present, June 12, 1890, nine children, thirty-eight grandchildren, thirty-nine great grandchildren, and one great, great grandchild — total, eighty-seven.

Nathaniel Sessions was a man of great industry, but for several years before his death he was unable to labor. His influence was ever on the side of right and justice, and his whole family received and practiced the correct principles of morality and temperance as laid down by him.

Of this large family, Charles Sessions was the oldest. Born in Marcellus township, Onondaga county, N. Y., December 20, 1817, and died in Lebanon township, Clinton county, Mich., February 13, 1889. On him fell a large portion of the hardship and responsibility accompanying a journey into the new country where they located in Michigan. For one year he remained at home, then becoming of age he located in Lebanon township, Clinton county, Michigan, about six miles from his father's, and five miles from any residence, in the midst of a dense forest with only the wolves and bears for company. He lived alone most of the time until August 27, 1840, when he married Miriam Cooley. Two children were born to them, a son and daughter. The

son, Nathan, enlisted in the Ninth Michigan Infantry, and died in Chattanooga, Tenn.

April 14, 1846, he married Mary Baldwin Ryan. Six children were born, four daughters and two sons. Charles Sessions was a man of unceasing industry, the strictest integrity, and though his school life was very limited, his influence was always for education. All of his children received a good education. Three of them went through college. May graduated at Olivet College, and Jay and Ray took degrees from the Michigan Agricultural College.

His occupation was farming, and at one time was the owner of over one thousand acres of good farming land, but he gave each of his children a farm amounting to five hundred and seventy acres. In politics he was a Whig and then a Republican. He belonged to no church.

His family consisted of eight children, twenty grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Living at present, six children, eighteen grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Matilda Sessions born March 15, 1820, in Onondaga county, N. Y., was the oldest daughter of Nathaniel Sessions' large family, and on her fell the cares attending the moving into a new country. She married Nathan Mount, a Methodist minister, who died in February, 1876. Their married life was an exceptionally happy one. Two children and four grandchildren were their offspring. Now living, one child and three grandchildren. She is at present

residing in a neat, little cottage on her brother Amasa's farm.

The third child was an infant daughter, deceased.

William Sessions, the fourth child, was born in Onondaga county, N. Y., May 2, 1821. He taught school a great deal when a young man. He located on a beautiful farm one-half mile west of his father's in North Plains township, and married Julia Jennings, who was also a teacher of considerable experience.

He sold his farm to his brother Alcinous, and for several years was a resident of the city of Ionia. He engaged extensively in the lumber and shingle business. At present resides on a farm in Montcalm county, Mich. A Whig and then Republican politically. He was at one time a member of the Michigan Legislature. Three children and four grandchildren were his descendants. Two children and four grandchildren now living.

Irene Sessions, the fifth child, was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., May 21, 1823; died March 2, 1863. She married Ora Stiles, and had born to them eight children, three of whom are living. Her son, William Stiles, was in the Civil War, and died in Texas. Seven grandchildren, all of whom are living, are her descendants.

The sixth child was an infant son, deceased.

Harvey Sessions, the seventh child, was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., June 8, 1826, and was shot in a battle in the Civil War, and died on the battle-field, March 21, 1865. He was a resident of

Iowa, a farmer. He married Sarah Smith, who soon died leaving him one son, Charlie, who died in April, 1873; thus this family has become extinct.

Sidney Sessions, the eighth child, was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., July 19, 1828. His first wife was Libbie Wallace, who died. His second wife was Sarah Stoddard. Only one son born to them. He is a farmer in Fulton township, Gratiot county, Mich. Whig, Republican and Prohibitionist, and a member of Methodist Episcopal Church.

Amasa Sessions, the ninth child, was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., January 28, 1831, and married Mary Vredenburg. He owns a beautiful farm in North Plains township, Ionia county, Mich. His descendants are five children, two grandchildren. Living at present, three children and two grandchildren. Whig, Republican and Prohibitionist, and an active worker in Methodist Episcopal Church.

Alcinous Y. Sessions, the tenth child, was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., Feb. 15, 1833. Married Charlotte Covill. He owns a large farm in North Plains, Ionia county, Mich. Engaged at one time in lumber business, but now a merchant in Carson City, Montcalm county, Mich. Descendants, five children and five grandchildren. Living, two children and four grandchildren. A Republican in politics.

Clarissa Sessions, the eleventh child, deceased April 21, 1835.

Jane Sessions, the twelfth child, was born in Chautauqua county, N. Y., January 15, 1836, and married

Hiram Blanchard. Descendants, three children and one grandchild. Living, two children and one grandchild. Resident of Hubbardston, Ionia county, Mich. A very active worker in Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mary Sessions, the thirteenth, and Julia, the fourteenth, were twins, born in Ionia county, Mich., December 13, 1838, the first born after moving to Michigan. Mary died July 2, 1858, in her twentieth year without marrying. Julia taught school several terms, and married Charles H. Morse, who was captain in the Civil War.

They now reside on a large farm in New Haven township, Gratiot county, Mich. Born to them five children, four of them are living.

Nathaniel Sessions, the fifteenth child, was born in Ionia county, Mich., April 24, 1841. He was in the Civil War and wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness, in June, 1864. He married Addie Smith. Six children were born to them, all of whom are living. He is now a farmer in Lebanon township, Clinton county, Mich. A Republican in politics, and member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

John Sessions, the sixteenth child, was born in Ionia county, Mich., April 9, 1843. He went into the War of the Rebellion, and was wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness in June, 1864, and died in Washington city, August 26, 1864. He married Ella Brayton, had no children.

Lyman T. Sessions, the last and seventeenth child,

was born in Ionia county, Mich., February 4, 1846, He married Sarah Wing, and lived on the old homestead and cared for his parents until their deaths. He sold the old farm to his brothers Alcinous and Amasa, who still own it. He went to Kansas, where he spent one season, and returned and bought a small farm near Portland, Ionia county, Mich., where he now resides. Three children were born to them, and all living. A Republican, and member of no church.

ROBERT SESSIONS, JR.

ROBERT Sessions, Jr. of South Wilbraham, Mass., was married to Charlotte Bartlette Metcalf of Lebanon, Conn., May, 1811. Their children, born in South Wilbraham, Mass., were:

George Metcalf Sessions.
Elizabeth Ann Sessions.
Robert Oscar Sessions.
Charlotte Maria Sessions.
Clarissa Jane Sessions.
Nancy Janette Sessions.
Joseph Bradford Sessions.
Horace Mills Sessions.

George Metcalf Sessions married Mary Monroe Filley of East Windsor, Conn. Their children were: George Filley Sessions, Charlotte Metcalf Sessions, Mary Frances Sessions. Born in Hartford, Conn.

George Filley Sessions married Delia Scullan of Springfield, Mass. No children.

Charlotte Metcalf Sessions married Charles Pond Harris of Rutland, Vt. No children.

Mary Frances Sessions married Benjamin Leroy Bragg of Orange, Mass. Had three sons, born in Springfield, Mass.: Benjamin Leroy, George Sessions and William Filley; the last two died in infancy.

Elizabeth Ann Sessions never married.

Robert Oscar Sessions married Emily Stebbins of South Wilbraham. Had one daughter, Alice Louise, who married George Levins Twichell of Brookfield, Mass., who have had the following children: Stanley Sessions (deceased in childhood), Emily Stebbins, George Robert, Mary Louise (deceased), and Harry Sessions.

Emily Stebbins Twichell married Charles Lowell Vizzard of Brookfield, Mass.

Charlotte Maria Sessions married John Wesley Griswold of Thomsonville, Conn., and had the following children:

Frank Sessions Griswold, Minneola Griswold, Julia Maria Griswold (deceased in childhood), Emma Jane Griswold, Charlotte Melissa Griswold (deceased in childhood). All born in Minnesota.

Clarissa Jane Sessions married David Parmilee Robinson of Blandford, Mass. No children.

Nancy Janette Sessions never married.

Joseph Bradford Sessions, never married.

Horace Mills Sessions married Juliette Lord of Westfield, Mass., July, 1856, and had the following children: Elizabeth, Charles Robert (died in childhood), Mary (died in childhood), Elvira (died in childhood), Homer Lord, died in childhood and Horace Robert (twins), died at age of twenty-two, Juliette, and Joseph Lord (twins), died in infancy, Frank Lord. All born at Hampden (formerly South Wilbraham), Mass.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF FRANCIS C. SESSIONS.

[From Magazine of Western History.]

IN the ancient Anglo-Saxon tongue appears a name that may be best expressed in modern English by the word "Sass." In this old language it means a dweller on, or a tiller of the soil. Pursuing the study of the name further down the annals of heraldry, the name "Sasson" appears, with the same meaning. The family who bore it were tillers of the soil, and investigation still further shows Sesson, Sisson, Session, and Sessions — natural dialectic derivatives of the same root, bearing the same meaning, and borne by families whose avocations were shown by their names. In the history of the ancient town of Wantage, England, appears, early in the sixteenth century, the first records of the English family Sessions. Like many another family in English history, the occupation is evidenced by the name, and the student of history is not surprised to find the family farmers. There the occupation of farmer usually is that of overseer to the large manors of an English lord or baronet, rather than as practiced in America, where a farmer is his own overseer. In the old town rec-

ords mention is made of Alexander Sessions, the farmer of the Dudley Manor. That he was a good farmer is further shown, and when Thomas Dudley, deputy governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony, came with his superior, John Winthrop, and a company of emigrants to America in 1630, Alexander Sessions was requested to come in his capacity as farmer for the new estates of his employer.

Little that is definite can be said now of the history of Alexander Sessions in the New World, during the early years of the colony. That he shared the privations of the colony, aided in its development, and managed well his trust, can safely be inferred from his character and from the history of the colony as brought down to us.

About sixteen years after he came the site of the present town of Andover, Massachusetts, was purchased from the Indians for "six English pounds, and one coat." A town was laid out, and the unpronounceable native name for this locality changed to Andover, in memory of an English town from which many of its settlers came. By this time Alexander Sessions had decided to abandon labor for another man and to be a "freeman." He became one of the first settlers of Andover, and one year after is mentioned in the town records as a "Freeman of Andover, Mass., 1647."

From this date onward but little can be said of Alexander till April 24, 1674, a record appears showing that "Alexander Sessions and Elizabeth Spaf-

ford were united in marriage." To them were born seven sons: John, Alexander, Timothy, Samuel, Nehemiah, Josiah and Joseph, whose biblical names attest the Calvanistic principles of their parents.

Of these sons, Alexander was, in after years, one of the most prominent. He was born about 1680. In 1704 he went to Pomfret, Connecticut, a town started in that colony in 1686, where he, too, followed the occupation shown by his name, and where he lived to the great age of four score and eleven years. His mental and bodily vigor remained till almost the last. Until his eighty-eighth year, when he became blind, he managed the details of his large estate with remarkable energy and fidelity. All his life he was a careful student of the Bible. After reaching four score years of age he committed to memory the New Testament, the Psalms and many other parts of the Old Testament.

Among his children, Robert, his fifth child, born March 15, 1752, became one of the most prominent. About the time he attained his majority he went to Boston, where he was employed by a Mr. Davis, a lumber dealer, as a common laborer. This was in the summer of 1773, the year that England's persecutions of the colonies terminated in a farmers' "tea party," to which Robert Sessions was an uninvited guest. England had decreed that America must buy tea only of her merchants, and thus by a monopoly, over which America had no voice, control the action and trade of the colonies. The "tea party" was the

first effective expression of the people against this foreign arbitrary power. After all negotiation had failed, and every measure to remove the obnoxious tax was lost, the people took matters in their own hands. Early in December a shipload of tea anchored in Boston harbor. A New England town meeting was hastily called, and day after day various measures suggested to rid the port of so invidious an intruder. The town meeting of that century was like the "resolution meetings" of to-day, the safety-valve of the people. Nothing could be done, however, and on the 16th of that month the culmination came. About twilight of that day the meeting broke up just in time to see a band of "Mohawk Indians" march past the door, go on down to the wharf, board the vessel, where the experiment of "mixing tea and salt water" was tried. The band of "Indians" not proving numerous enough to do the work quickly, they were joined by many adventurous young men. Among them was Robert Sessions.

Many years after a little volume came from the New England press, and under the title of "Tea Leaves," preserved the story and something of all the actors. Several of the guests to this "Boston tea party" had preserved their recollections, and among them is found Mr. Sessions. He says:

I was living in Boston at the time, in the family of Mr. Davis, a lumber merchant, as a common laborer. On that eventful evening, when Mr. Davis came in from the town meeting, I asked him what was to be

done with the tea. "They are now throwing it overboard," he replied. Receiving permission I went immediately to the spot. Every thing was as light as day; by the means of lamps and torches, a pin might be seen lying on the wharf.

I went on board where they were at work and took hold with my own hands. I was not one of those appointed to destroy the tea, and who disguised themselves as Indians, but was a volunteer, the disguised men being largely men of family and position in Boston, while I was a young man whose home and relations were in Connecticut. The appointed and disguised party proving too small for the quick work necessary, other young men, similarly circumstanced with myself, joined them in their labors.

The chests were drawn up by a tackle, one man bringing them forward, another putting a rope around them, and others hoisting them to the deck and carrying them to the vessel's side. The chests were then opened, the tea emptied over the side and the chests thrown overboard. Perfect regularity prevailed during the whole transaction. Although there were many people on the wharf, entire silence prevailed—no clamor, no talking. Nothing was meddled with but the teas on board. After having emptied the whole, the deck was swept clean and every thing put in its proper place. An officer on board was requested to come up from the cabin and see that no damage was done except to the tea.

At about the close of the scene a man was discovered making his way through the crowd with his pockets filled with tea. He was immediately laid hold of and his coat skirts torn off, with their pockets, and thrown into the dock with the rest of the tea.

I was obliged to leave the town at once, as it was of course known that I was concerned in the affair.

It is noticeable that invitations to this tea party were not given in the conventional style even of that day; nor has the like been seen since. The Boston poet, Dr. Holmes, in his "Ballad of the Boston Tea Party," thus describes the event:

"An evening party — only that,
No formal invitation.
No gold-laced coat, no stiff cravat,
No feast of invitation.

No silk-robed dames, no fiddling band,
No flowers, no songs, no dancing;
A tribe of red men — axe in hand —
Behold the guests advancing!"

And then the poet, in his own entertaining style, tells who came to this party. These were barbers, smithwrights, tapsters, coopers, ship-yard lads, white-faced millers, Fort Hillers, and others, all "Mohawks" who

"As all at once the full-grown imps
Light on the deck together."

and —

"Out the cursed cargo leaps,
And overboard it pitches."

The Boston tea party may be called the key note of the Revolution. Actual hostilities began with the battle of Lexington, April 19, 1775. The struggle lasted eight years. The Sessions, many of whom were now in America, all espoused the cause of freedom, and rendered effectual aid to the "Young Republic," in which their fortunes were cast. In 1775,

an uncle of Robert was governor of Rhode Island, and in his official as well as individual capacity, did much for the cause. Robert Sessions enlisted early in the conflict, rose to the rank of lieutenant, and served with ability through the war.

In his native town lived the Roxbury family of Ruggles, well known in colonial history. April 16, 1788, Robert Sessions and Anna Ruggles were married. Anna Ruggles' brother, Benjamin, was afterwards well known to Ohio people. Beginning in 1815, he was three successive terms elected to represent them in the United States Senate. Soon after the birth of their first child, Betsey, in May, 1779, Mr. and Mrs. Sessions removed to South Wilbraham, — now Hampden — Massachusets, where they afterwards lived.

Robert Sessions became a prominent man in his community. His occupation was that of a farmer. He was often called to fill important local offices of trust. For many years he was justice of the peace, For twelve years he was treasurer and town clerk. Five years he was a representative, and almost always his neighbors chose him to that important local New England office — moderator of the town meetings. Death came finally, in 1836, at the ripe old age of four score and four years, and two years after his wife was taken.

The seventh child of this family, Francis, was born in Pomfret, Connecticut, August 27, 1792. In 1818 or 1819 he was married to Sophronia Metcalf, grand-

daughter of Peleg Thomas, a resident of Lebanon, Connecticut, who lived to the great age of ninety-seven. It was often his custom, in his old age, to say to his family at evening prayers: "Children, you may get your Bibles to-night, as I will not read, but repeat a portion of Scripture, and you may see if I do so correctly." Not long since, his grandson, P. G. Thomas, was buried, and the local paper in the notice of this man makes a statement, showing something of the perpetuity of New England families on their ancestral homes. It says:

On Tuesday, the 2d inst., P. G. Thomas, who died the preceding Saturday, was buried from the house, in Lebanon [Goshen] in which he died, and was born seventy-six years before. In these days, and especially in this county, of change, it is worthy of note that six generations have occupied the land originally settled early in A. D., 1700, in direct descent, none of the original estate having been alienated, but, contrariwise, largely added to, so that the late descendant at one time owned nearly three thousand acres, probably the largest amount of farming land held by one owner in the State, if not in New England. The family have always been chosen to positions of trust in their town and State, every one of those who have occupied the old homestead having represented Lebanon in the Legislature repeatedly. The second in descent from John, the founder of this family in Lebanon, was a member of the National Council of Safety, and the most intimate and trusted friend of Governor Trumbull. They were also sought for positions of private trust, so that the subject of this notice once told the writer that he represented twenty-

seven estates, as guardian, conservator, overseer, executor and administrator.

The only child of Mr. and Mrs. Sessions, Francis Charles, whose name heads this article, was born in South Wilbraham, February 27, 1820. At the early age of two years, the death of his father caused a change in family affairs and his removal to the home of his uncle, Robert Sessions, a farmer, near South Wilbraham. With him he lived during his boyhood.

The youth of all New England children is much the same. Those whose homes are on farms labor thereon during the summer and attend school during the winter. Above the district school was the academy, above the academy the college. It was the ambition of all to obtain a classic education, if possible; if not to get as near to that as circumstances would admit. To supply such a demand numerous academies sprang up, many of which became noted for the thoroughness of their training, and which were often preferred above all other high schools.

Mr. Sessions' boyhood was like that of the average industrious, ambitious New England boy. His health forbade a complete classic course and a sedentary life. At Monson was an excellent academy, and there at the age of eighteen he graduated and began to cast plans for the future. Next to an education the New England boy looked to the west for his field of future. At that date—1838—the canal boat, stage coach and river packet absorbed all travel, and furnished for the times a speedy and safe means of

travel. Two years after his graduation, the New England youth, almost now a man, left his eastern home, and after a weary journey, by the methods then in vogue, landed in October, 1840, in the Buckeye capital, his chosen objective point.

At this date Columbus was a straggling, bustling town of about six thousand inhabitants. The town centered about a large central square, in the south-west corner of which stood the capitol buildings and the State offices. North of what is now Spring street, east of Fourth street, south of the county buildings, could hardly be found a business house, while dwellings were far apart and in many places not to be seen. On the west was the Scioto river, on whose banks in the south-west part of the town were many warehouses and docks, for at that time her shipping trade was a considerable factor in her growth. Up the river, on its opposite bank, about a mile to the north-west, lay the village of Franklinton, now a part of the city. Its age dates back to 1797, and in its day it was the county town and the chief place of importance in the Scioto valley north of Circleville.

Casting about for employment, Mr. Sessions entered the store of A. P. Stone & Co., dealers in dry goods, in the old Commercial block, on South High street. Three years after he formed a partnership with Thomas Ellis, and under the name of Ellis, Sessions & Co., a dry goods store was opened on the west side of High street, a few doors south of State street. This year a directory of Columbus was pub-

lished, the earliest of any that I have been able to find. It is a primitive, crude work of its kind. No attempt at classification is made, and but little in correct alphabetizing of names, beyond the simple division of letters.

Speaking of the town, the directory says there are "5,475 white inhabitants, 573 blacks, a total of 6,048 population." In August, of that year, some one enumerated the families, and publishes that there are "1,100 white families, and 100 black families." Columbus contained eleven organized congregations of whites, worshipping in eight churches, two of blacks, with churches of their own. There are "six small subscription schools, fifteen free schools, enrolling seven hundred scholars," and one "respectable academy for males and females," under charge of Rev. I. Covert. The Germans—probably Lutherans—have a theological seminary. The directory enumerates "twenty-five dry goods stores, eight groceries, forty groceries and produce — commonly called provision stores — two hardware stores, three drug stores, two book stores, two shoe stores, two iron stores, seventeen licensed taverns, where a little *wet* can be had, twenty lawyers, twenty-one doctors, including three or four dentists."

At this time the town was divided into three wards. S. E. Wright was mayor, Wilson Shannon was governor of Ohio, John Brough was auditor, and E. W. Hubbard, commissioner of the canal fund. The Odd Fellows and Masons each had one lodge, and two or

three societies of an entertaining or instructive character were in existence. The directory mentions two banks, Clinton and the City Bank, existing under State charters.

The canal, the river and stage line furnished all facilities for transportation at this time, when Franklinton, Worthington and other "river towns" almost rivaled the Capital City in point of foreign trade. Worthington had indeed been a rival to Columbus from its very beginning. It was the most formidable competitor. The proprietors of the "high bluff on the east side of the Scioto" met in their struggles to obtain the *capital* prize of the day. In truth it lost the prize by only one vote, and tradition says that was caused by the seductive temptations of cards and rum punch. Worthington was laid out as early as 1803, and settled by a colony brought out by Col. James Kilbourne, a military man, an engineer, a minister, and a legislator. He and his colonists settled as soon as Congress accepted the Constitution of 1802, which affirmed the "Compact of 1787," regarding slavery. Had the energetic colonel's plans not miscarried, partly from reasons already given, his town would have been the capital of Ohio.

In 1813 there came to this village, Orange Johnson, a combmaker by trade, from Mansfield, Connecticut. On his journey westward his commodities paid his way. Securing a room in Colonel Kilbourne's hotel, he began his trade, and thus he became the pioneer in that industry in central Ohio.

His trade evidently grew, for two years after he erects a home for himself, is married to Ascha Maynard and begins life. Two years more go around and he erects a brick building in which to manufacture his combs. His trade is now growing, and for nine years occupies all his time. By that time other matters more profitable came, and with them a change of occupation.

Travel, that until 1826 had been done entirely by river, on horseback and by stage coach, began to demand better facilities. Turnpike roads were among the first improvements, and Mr. Johnson began building them. Sandusky, on the lake, was one of the principal lake towns in Ohio, directly north of the capital. Measures to connect the two towns were early made. The papers of that day continually refer to the "splendid water navigation at the capital of Ohio." As travel on the river was confined to shipping by flatboats to New Orleans, the water "facilities" can well be imagined. To secure easy connection between the lake and the Ohio river, by way of Columbus, was considered a feasible project by business men, and the "Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike Company" was organized to build a turnpike from Columbus north to the lake town. Mr. Johnson was one of the prime movers in this scheme and one of the builders of the road. Its construction required eight years' time. It gave an excellent avenue for trade of the city of Columbus, and from its building Mr. Johnson made considerable money. It brought

him constantly in contact with prominent people of the capital, and, in time, with investments here, and other business interests, caused his removal to Columbus.

About the time Mr. Sessions came the railroad question was agitating the public mind. Mr. Johnson's turnpike building brought him directly in contact with this modern innovator of old-time travel. With two others he surveyed a railroad route from Columbus to Xenia, there to connect with a road from Cincinnati to Dayton, from thence to Sandusky, on the lake, by way of the Mad River road, the first railroad in Ohio. In after years Mr. Johnson became a large property owner in Columbus, erecting the Johnson and the Sessions blocks, and removing in 1862, he resided here till his death in 1876.

The turnpike he had built to Worthington afforded a delightful evening ride for the business men of the city after the day's work was done. That Mr. Sessions was among those who improved the opportunity is very evident. A sprightly writer of the day even goes so far to say there was more than pleasure in it to him. Be that as it may, the drives with him usually ended at the house of Mr. Johnson, and one day in 1847, Mary Johnson, the only child of the household, became Mrs. Sessions. Almost forty years of married life have only strengthened the tie and deepened the affection of these two, whose converging lives became one on that August day so long ago.

Nine years after his marriage, Mr. Sessions sold his store, ceased the life of a merchant and began dealing in wool.

Four years after, the great Civil War came, and with it public duties for every citizen. There was work at home as well as on the field. Governor William Dennison was at Ohio's helm, and a more patriotic man could not have held the office. During his administration there was organized the greatest of all national philanthropies — the United States Sanitary Commission. The secretary of the western department was Dr. J. S. Newberry, with headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio, and with a field as large and as important as any. Equal to the task, Dr. Newberry set plans on foot to perfect his field work, and for that purpose organized branches all over the west, each one centering in a large city. In October, 1861, he visited Columbus, and there organized the Columbus branch, ultimately composed of the following persons: Governor William Dennison, Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald, Rev. Joseph M. Trimble, Doctors W. W. Awl, J. B. Thompson, T. J. Wormley, S. M. Smith, S. Loveing, and Dr. Francis Carter; also, John W. Andrews, F. C. Sessions, Joseph Sullivant, Peter Ambos, J. H. Riley, Robert Neil and Francis Collins. These gentlemen constituted a committee of which Dr. Awl was president, Dr. Thompson, vice-president, Dr. Wormley, treasurer, and Mr. Sessions, secretary.

The election of a secretary in almost all bodies

evidences not only an ability but a willingness to work. After the war closed, in 1866, Dr. Newberry finished his report of the operations of the western branch of the commission. It is exhaustive in detail and full of valuable material. Referring to the Columbus association, the report, after giving details of organization, says:

Hon. William Dennison was at this time chief magistrate of the State, and in this connection, as elsewhere, manifested himself an earnest, unselfish patriot and a true and efficient friend to the soldier.

Dr. S. M. Smith, a widely known physician, was subsequently Surgeon-General of the State, and both in his individual and official character contributed largely to the results at which we aimed. Mr. Sessions, another member of the Columbus branch, was one of the earliest volunteers who took the field to minister to the wants of the sick and suffering in the army.

He accompanied us on the *Allen Collier* in our memorable trip to Fort Donelson, and went to Pittsburgh Landing immediately after the battle, where he was connected with the great work accomplished in the care of the sick and wounded during the spring and early summer of 1862.

He also went with Dr. Smith to Murfreesboro, upon the occasion of the battle of Stone River, visited Virginia during the second campaign in that State, as well as most other important points in our field of operation, always as an earnest, hardworking, good Samaritan.

* * * * * *

Columbus was an important point of rendezvous

for our troops in the early part of the war, and throughout its duration camps of instruction or rendezvous continued to exist there. Much labor was therefore thrown upon our associates located there, in meeting the home demand, both for personal ministrations and hospital supplies. In these duties a large number of them took an active part, with marked effect, in the amelioration of the condition of those who came under their care.

In the progress of events it also became desirable to establish at Columbus a resting-place or asylum for the sick and destitute soldiers—whose wants were not otherwise provided for — detained at or passing through the city.

To meet these wants a soldiers' home was established, mainly through the exertions of Mr. Sessions, and, more than once enlarged, it continued its good offices to the close of the war.

To aid in the work of the Columbus branch, an appropriation of $5,000 was early made, from the funds of the Sanitary Commission, and to this fund several thousand dollars were subsequently added for the equipment and maintenance of the soldiers' home.

At Columbus, as everywhere else, a large part of the work of the Sanitary Commission was accomplished through the agency of woman. In October, 1861, a Soldiers' Aid Society was organized there, which was in December formally recognized as an auxiliary of the United States Sanitary Commission, bearing the same relation to that body as the Woman's Central Relief Association of New York. Of this society, Mrs. W. E. Ide was the first president, and Mrs. George W. Heyl, corresponding secretary (subsequently president), while its membership

included most of the influential and patriotic ladies of the city.

The work of the Sanitary Commission did not close with Lee's surrender. There were sick and disabled soldiers without friends and homes, and the commission, neglectful in nothing, set about to provide means for their proper care. Its perfect organization, its experience, its commendable and well-tempered zeal, gave it not only the direction, but in many cases entire control of the erection of and maintenance of soldiers' homes.

Columbus, like other central capital cities, was an important military point, and a home was erected here. Naturally it came under the control of the Columbus association, and as such Mr. Sessions and his colleagues had much to do with it. Of their work in this particular, Dr. Newberry says:

Many capitals of our western States became during the war important military centers.

This was emphatically true of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Columbus, Ohio, at both of which points large numbers of soldiers congregated to be mustered in or out of service, to be equipped, paid off, etc. Both these cities, too, are on great thoroughfares, and during the period of the great military activity a constant tide of blue-coats was passing to and fro through them.

As a natural consequence, the work which prompted the establishment of soldiers' homes at other points which have been mentioned, was conspicuously felt at these.

At Indianapolis the soldiers' home was constructed by the State authorities, which contributed vastly to the comfort of the Indiana soldiers.

In Ohio no such provision was made by the State authorities, and the work of relief needed at Columbus devolved upon the branch of the Sanitary Commission located there, which included a large number of the most intelligent and influential citizens.

In the spring of 1864, they secured a convenient location, just across High street from the railroad depot, and here erected a building, supposed at that time to be amply sufficient to supply the want of a soldiers' home.

It was about one hundred feet long, thirty feet wide and two stories high, fitted with all the appurtenances of a soldiers' home, and could comfortably lodge and feed about fifty men.

Later in the year these accommodations were found inadequate to meet the wants of the soldiers applying for admission, and it was enlarged and its capacity doubled.

Even then it was found none too large to perform the relief work for which it was designed, at times being crowded to excess.

Up to nearly the close of the war its activity continued without important abatement, and it was even found necessary to keep it open long after active military operations had ceased.

It was closed the 7th of May, 1866, having accommodated 25,649, to whom were given 34,982 lodgings and 99,863 meals.

The establishment and success of the Columbus home are in a large degree due to the efforts of Mr. F. C. Sessions, a member of the Columbus branch of the Sanitary Commission, a gentleman who was one

of the earliest volunteers in the cause of humanity called out by the war, and who, during its entire continuance, by his labors on battle-fields, in camps and hospitals, while he sacrificed his personal interests and his health, won for himself the respect and admiration of all who knew him.

His name frequently appears on the records of the work of the Sanitary Commission at the west, in which, though an unpaid member, he was a most earnest and faithful worker, and it is probable there are few to whom this imperfect tribute will convey any new impressions in regard to the value of the services which he rendered to the cause of the country and humanity during the war.

Throughout the existence of the home at Columbus, Mr. Sessions gave it his constant supervision, and he was in fact its outside superintendent and manager.

The interior superintendent during 1865 and 1866 was Mr. T. E. Botsford, who had previously been employed in the home at Louisville, and was thoroughly trained for the duties which he performed so well.

The great Civil War brought into being the present system of National banks. In 1869 the Commercial National Bank of Columbus was organized, and Mr. Sessions elected president, a position he has since held.

In addition to the cares of his own business life, Mr. Sessions has been associated with many other enterprises, not only secular but educational and religious. He has been one of the chief supporters of his own denomination — the Congregational — in the city, and in its various public enterprises, and in addi-

tion has done very much for the churches of the city when in a feeble condition. He has held the office of trustee in Marietta, Oberlin and Central colleges, of Wilberforce University, and of the State institutions for the education of the blind, and of the deaf and dumb; president of the Humane Society, and a trustee of the Home for the Friendless. Through his influence the Sanitary Commission donated the Soldiers' Home and all appurtenances to the latter society.

When the Columbus Art School was started, some eight years ago, its projectors and friends found in him a ready supporter, not only in encouragement but in practical aid. Mr. Sessions has been a liberal supporter of art in Columbus, and has at his residence a valuable collection of paintings and sculpture, and has donated to the Art Association the use of the rooms for the Art School occupied by them since its commencement, enabling them to carry on their work with success. In addition to this, not an appeal is made for money that does not find in him a ready response. In all other enterprises for the good of the people of Ohio and of Columbus, he has freely given his time, his talents and his money. Mr. Sessions is frequently called upon for lectures, his subjects being chiefly upon art, temperance, village improvements, city parks, and other such matters of general interest.

Aside from all this, Mr. Sessions finds time or, as busy people must do, takes time for travel, writing and recreation, has visited all the countries of Europe,

crossing the ocean six times. A diligent student over fifty years acquires no little knowledge, and with it the ability to use it. Hence one is not surprised that when men like Mr. Sessions travel, interesting letters tell where they are and what they see. In the end a charming book often appears.

In 1879, Mr. Sessions and Rev. R. G. Hutchins, his pastor, made a hurried trip over Europe. During the journey Mr. Sessions wrote a series of very entertaining letters to the *Ohio State Journal* of Columbus. They were received with so much favor, and showed a picture of foreign travel so often overlooked by tourists, that, in response to numerous requests, they appeared in book form under the engaging title of "On the Wing Through Europe." The introduction to this book gives a few "points" worth remembering.

"The letters contained in this volume," says the writer, "were written hastily, as I could not catch a moment's time on the cars or while stopping for rest. * * * I have tried to give in my letters life-like pictures and various reflections on what I saw abroad; these may seem common-place, perhaps, to older travelers, but my excuse may be pleaded in a remark made by a certain friend, 'Your letters contain observations upon common matters which most travelers omit.'"

In that remark really lies the charm of the book. One who reads it sees what he wants to see, the people and how they live, and thereby gains not only information but instruction.

Harper's Monthly of October, 1880, referring to the work, says:

"On the Wing Through Europe," by F. C. Sessions, is the title of just such a journal of a flying tour of Europe during the year of the Paris Exposition, as we might expect from almost any one of our clear-headed and sensible men of business, writing for the entertainment of friends at home. Lively, concise, straight-forward, touching lightly but intelligently upon a multiplicity of topics without falling into sentimentality on the one hand or lapsing into prosaic literature on the other, it is an unaffected, agreeable record of travel. Its author's brief description of places of trans-Atlantic life, manners, customs, scenes, and of memorable places and buildings, is distinguished by the business man's faculty for close and sharp observation of men and things; and of arriving at natural and just conclusions concerning them.

The opinion of friends can be best expressed, perhaps, by quoting from a letter of ex-President Hayes, who, under date of July 21, 1880, says: "They strike me as altogether worthy of the beautiful dress in which they appear."

He is also the author of the following books: "In the Western Levant." "From the Yellowstone Park to Alaska." "The Country of the Midnight Sun to the Volga." "Materials for a History of the Sessions Family."

Apropos to Mr. Sessions literary work, I may be perhaps justified in a little anticipation. At the late annual meeting of the Ohio State Historical and

Archæological Society, Mr. Sessions read a most excellent paper on "Art in Ohio." When the question of writing this paper was brought before him, he, like many others at first thought, said: "Why, what is there of art in Ohio? We have hardly made a beginning." He was told that Ohio was not ashamed of her record in this particular, and asked to investigate a little. He had not been long at the work when, one day, he expressed to me the whole gist of the matter: "I am astonished at what my research develops. The trouble is not now to get enough; it is to know what to omit."

The paper was so well received that numerous requests have come to Mr. Sessions for a more extended history of "Art in Ohio," and I trust he will pardon me if I say he has promised to supply the work as soon as he can take time to do so.

A. A. Graham.

Francis Sessions.

Rev. Horace Sessions' remarks about my father, taken from a scrap of writing, his memorandum of words spoken at the death and funeral of Francis Sessions in South Wilbraham.

Francis Sessions was the fourth son of Robert Sessions, Esq., a man considerably above the common character of ordinary citizens; by profession a farmer; he, however, sustained several important civil and judicial offices, such as justice of the peace and a

member of the State Legislature. He was a man of property, of good character, of enterprise and perseverance.

His son Francis, as well as his other sons, received something more than a common education, and early took a leading part in the management of the farm and in all the principal contracts, either in disposing of articles, or in making the customary collections and purchases.

He possessed considerable penetration and facility in the prosecution of business, and was in various ways qualified to hold the station he was called to fill. He was universally regarded as a man of strict integrity and honesty, and always aimed at punctuality in all his dealings. As a child, he was dutiful, peaceful, and somewhat particular in his taste, generally confining himself to great simplicity as to the kinds of his food at one meal.

Descendants of Nathaniel Sessions.

Nathaniel, b. Aug. 8, 1681; settled at Pomfret, Conn.; d. there in March, 1771, aged 91; his wife, Hannah, d. same year. They had eight children: John, Nathaniel, Abner, Abijah, Alexander, Amasa, Davies and Simon L.

Amasa (son of Nathaniel above), b. 1715; d. 1795, aged 84, and is buried at Pomfret. He had seven children: John, Samuel, Amasa, Nathan-

iel, Robert (who had son, Francis, who had son, Francis C.), Squire and Abner.

Nathaniel (son of Amasa above) lived in Union and d. there, Oct. 5, 1824, aged 74. He had Amasa, Ebenezer, Nathaniel, Susannah, Irena, Lydia, and six others by a second wife.

Amasa (son of Nathaniel above) had Sila, who died and left a large family; Alonzo, b. Aug. 4, 1810, and had seven children living about Ionia, Mich.; Job S., of Spring Lake, Mich., who had one child; George W., who left a widow and two children; Jane M., who had three children; Amasa, unmarried; John of New York city, who had four children; Darius, who died, and Elizabeth of Utica, who had six children.

Descendants of John Sessions.

John, b. in Boxford, Mass., June 9, 1741; married Nov. 17, 1763; d. of old age in Westminster, Vt., May 1, 1820. He was a farmer, deacon, justice of the peace, and much respected; was for two years member of the first Continental Congress, and first Judge of the County Court; also member New York Legislature for two terms under the elder Governor Clinton. For further particulars see Hill's History of Eastern Vermont. He married Ann Warstley, b. of Irish parents at

Dedham, Mass., or Walpole, N. H., in 1740; d. of old age, Oct. 12, 1820. The mother of John Sessions was Hannah Gray, whose father, Henry Gray, came from England, married a Blunt and settled in Andover, Mass. He was a farmer, and died of a disease of the head, 1755, and had four sons, names unknown, and four daughters: Jemima, married a Holt; Rebecca, also married a Holt; Elizabeth, married an Abbott; Mary, married a Foster, and Sarah, unmarried. John Sessions had three children:

Ann, b. July 20, 1765; married D. Foster.

John, b. July 30, 1768.

Samuel, b. June 25, 1773; married June 17, 1817, Mrs. Gray; d. of fever, Jan. 9, 1826.

John, b. July 30, 1768; married Oct. 16, 1793. Was a farmer; d. of old age Jan. 25, 1852, in Lunenburg, Vt. He married Lucinda Washburn, b. May 14, 1770. She d. of consumption, March 11, 1820. They had seven children:

Rev. Samuel, b. March 23, 1805; married Caroline Bird of Westfield, N. Y., and had four children: Ira B., Julia, Emma and Ella.

Rev. Joseph W., b. June 30, 1801; married Mary Dunning of Maine, and had two daughters, Mary D. and Laura.

Calvin, b. June 10, 1799; married Jan., 1822; d. Nov. 8, 1860. Had Samuel, John and others.

Lucinda, b. March 23, 1797; married a Case,

Nov. 29, 1827; d. Dec. 22, 1866. Had two children: Avery and Marcia; the latter died young.

Rev. John, b. Sept. 29, 1795; married Feb. 1, 1825, Eliza Winne, b. Jan. 20, 1798.

Orpha, b. Feb. 18, 1803; d. 1872; married April 25, 1824, Charles Ames of Lunenburg, Vt., and had nine children: Lucy Forbes, b. March 15, 1825; Jane Elizabeth, b. 1826; Esther Washburn, b. June 3, 1828; Clarence, b. Nov. 24, 1830; Anna M., b. Feb. 27, 1832; Charles, b. Aug. 28, 1834; d. Oct. 10, 1834; Ella Lucinda, b. Sept. 14, 1838; Almira, b. Oct. 8, 1842; John S., b. March 10, 1846; died young.

Ann Maria, b. March 13, 1808; married Oct. 29, 1828, A. G. Redway of Jefferson co., N. Y., and had sons, Watts, John S., Edward and Albert.

Rev. John, b. Sept. 29, 1795; married Feb, 1, 1825, Eliza Winne, b. Jan. 20, 1798. Had five children:

Edward Cathcart Sessions, b. Jan. 17, 1836, at Norwich, N. Y.; married Mary Henrietta Drum, April 23, 1867, and had Annie Drum, b. Oct. 9, 1868, and Edward, b. 1870.

John Winne Sessions, b. at Brownville, Oct. 21, 1831.

George W., b. April 8, 1829, at Adams, N. Y.; d. of fever, Nov. 15, 1855; married May 5,

1852, Ann Amelia Willis of New York city, and had Mary Baxter, b. April 14, 1853; d. April 7, 1855; George Washburn, b. Feb. 22, 1856.

Cornelia A., b. Jan. 12, 1826, at Adams, N. Y.; married May 31, 1852, Rev. Sereno E. Bishop of Sandwich Islands, and sailed June 25, 1852, and had son, Edward Fletcher Bishop, b. at Lahaina, S. I., April 13, 1853; Charles O., b. 1855; d. 1857; George S., b. 1856; d. 1859; Elizabeth D., b. 1862.

Helen Eliza, b. in Norwich, N. Y., March 25, 1838; d. Nov. 17, 1865; married John Russell Kinney, July 15, 1863, and had daughter, Millie S., b. May 19, 1865.

Genealogy of the Family of George Sessions and Eunice Mather.

George Sessions, b. Dec. 16, 1784, at Wilbraham, Mass.; d. in Northfield, Mich., Sept. 30, 1834.

Eunice Mather, his wife, b. at Windsor, Conn., Nov. 11, 1790; d. in Northfield, Mich., Sept. 1, 1843. They had eight children, as follows:

Hanson Sessions, b. Sept. 28, 1813; now residing in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Juliaette Sessions, b. Oct. 9, 1815; married Jan. 24, 1837, to Hiram Hammond, and resided many years

near Eaton Rapids, Mich.; d. June 30, 1871. They had three children, none of whom are living.

Horace M. Sessions, b. Aug. 11, 1818; d. in Northfield, Mich., Aug. 10, 1841.

Milton Sessions, b. Sept. 29, 1820; d. May 3, 1840.

William Sessions, b. Sept. 15, 1823; d. Sept. 13, 1841.

Harriet A. Sessions, b. May 22, 1826; now resides at Lansing, Mich.; her husband, Calvin Tracy, d. at Lansing, July 28, 1889.

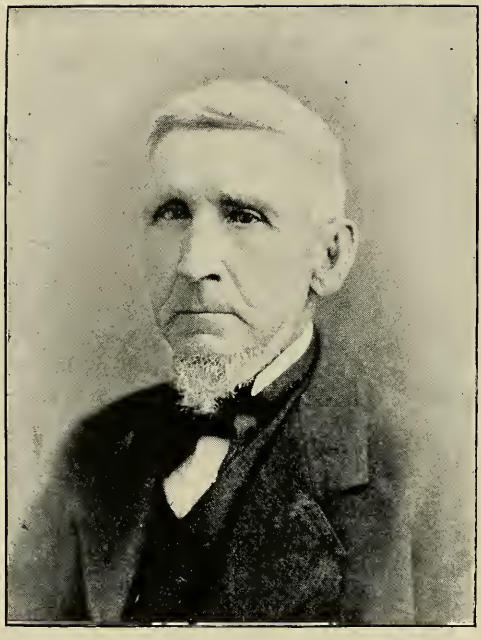
George D. Sessions, b. Aug. 3, 1829, and now resides at Lawton, Mich.

John Q. A. Sessions, b. Jan. 15, 1832; grad. at University of Mich., June, 1856; served three years in the war as an officer of Seventh Michigan Cavalry; now resides at Ann Arbor, Mich.

Grandchildren of George Sessions and Eunice (Mather) Sessions, now living.

Hanson Sessions married Harriet L. Chubb, July 4, 1842. They have four children living: Charles A. Sessions, b. Sept. 4, 1843, resides at Sammons' Landing, Oceana co., Mich.; Ann Eliza Sessions, b. Jan. 22, 1846, resides at Niobrara, Neb.; Mary C. Sessions, resides in Ann Arbor, Mich.; Hanson E. Sessions, Jr., b. April 28, 1861, resides in south-west part of Colorado.

Harriet A. Sessions married Calvin Tracy, at Lansing, Mich., March 1, 1859. They have one son, Milton S. Tracy, b. April 26, 1866, at Lansing, Mich.,



Ex.-Gov. ALONZO SESSIONS,
Ionia, Mich.

now resides at Jackson, Mich. He is a machinist in the car shops of the Michigan Central Railroad Company.

George D. Sessions married Julia A. Harris. They have three daughters living, Mrs. Addie J. Roberts, Juliaette Sessions, and Julia M. Sessions of Kalamazoo, Mich. The latter is a teacher of music in the schools of Marshall, Mich.

John Q. A. Sessions married Miss A. E. Masten of Ypsilanti, Mich., Sept. 15, 1857, and had two sons, Harrie M. Sessions, b. Sept. 12, 1859; d. March 27, 1865; Francis M. Sessions, b. Sept. 15, 1866; grad. at Michigan University at Ann Arbor, June, 1888, and now book-keeper in the Commercial National Bank, Columbus, Ohio, of which Francis C. Sessions is president.

[From the History of Washtenaw County, Michigan.]

George Sessions came with his family to the township of Northfield, Washtenaw county, Michigan, from Madison county, New York, in September, 1834, and purchased six lots of land on sections 2 and 11.

He was from one of the oldest New England families, being a descendant of Samuel Sessions, who was a resident of Andover, Mass., in 1677. George Sessions was born in South Wilbraham, Mass., in 1784.

His father, Robert Sessions, settled in Wilbraham soon after the close of the Revolutionary War, and was one of the "Boston Tea Party," who threw overboard in Boston harbor the tea from England, on

which a tax was demanded, and which was one of the immediate causes of the Revolution.

He married Eunice Mather of Windsor, Conn., a very estimable woman, and a descendant of the noted Cotton Mather of Massachusetts colony.

Mr. Sessions died about a year after he came to Northfield, leaving his widow and eight children, who remained and cleared up one of the best farms in the township. The best part of this farm is still owned by Hanson Sessions of Ann Arbor, the oldest member of the family; J. Q. A. Sessions of Ann Arbor, being the youngest. The other survivors are Mrs. Harriet A. Tracy of Lansing, and George D. Sessions of Van Buren county.

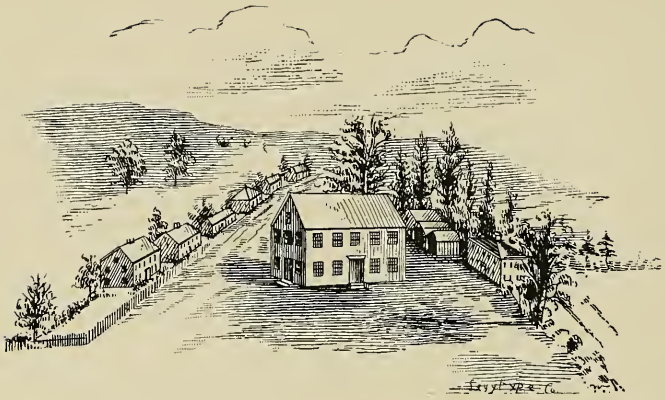
J. Q. A. Sessions is graduate of the University of Michigan and a lawyer. He has taken an active part in writing up the history of Washtenaw county. In 1879, he read before the Washtenaw County Pioneer Society a graphic history of the early settlement of Ann Arbor, and has filled the office of president of the society, and served as secretary and chairman of the executive committee several years.

He also served three years in the army during the Rebellion, and was first lieutenant of Company D, Seventh Michigan Cavalry. This regiment was a part of the brigade commanded by General Custer.

Lineage of Francis C. Sessions.

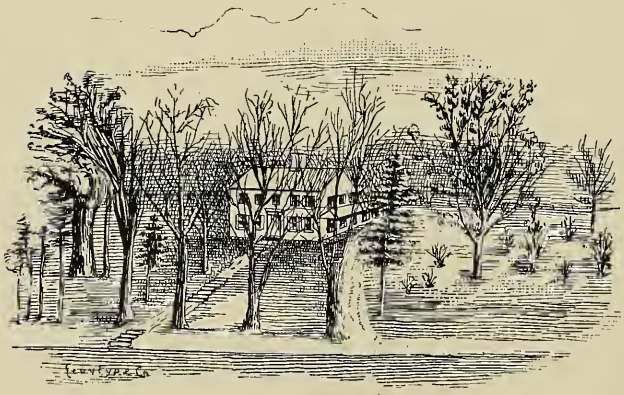
[Reprinted from "American Ancestry."]

Francis Charles Sessions of Columbus, Ohio, b. at South Wilbraham, Mass., Feb. 27, 1820, author of "On the Wing Through Europe," "In the Western Levant," magazine articles on "Alaska," "Yellowstone Park," "Metlakechla," "Ohio in Art," etc., pres. Ohio Arch. and Hist. Soc., trustee Ohio Inst. for the Blind, trustee of the Ohio Inst. for the Deaf and Dumb, trustee of the Oberlin, Marietta and Columbus Medical College, and president Columbus Gallery of Fine Arts (m. May Johnson), son of Francis of South Wilbraham, b. there Aug. 27, 1792, d. there Dec. 5, 1822 (m. Sophronia Metcalf); son of Robert of Wilbraham, b. at Pomfret, Conn., March 15, 1752, d. at Wilbraham, Sept. 27, 1836, moved from Pomfret to Wilbraham about 1779–80, one of the memorable Boston Tea Party, officer in Rev. war (m. April 16, 1778, Anna Ruggles of Pomfret, Conn., d. Nov. 22, 1838, aged 82); son of Amasa of Pomfret, Conn., b. there 1720–3 (m. Hannah Miller of Rehoboth, Mass.); son of Nathaniel of Pomfret, Conn., b. Aug. 8, 1681, d. 1771, moved to Pomfret as early as 1704; son of Alexander of Andover, Mass., b. about 1645, d. at Andover, Feb. 26, 1688-9, was there as early as 1669, member church there 1686, freeman there 1677, one of the proprietors of the town (m. April 24, 1672, Eliza, dau. of John Spofford).



The old Congregational Church, South Wilbraham, Mass.

(Erected in 1783.)



Residence of Hon. Robert Sessions, Hampden, Mass.

(Built in 1815. Now occupied by his son, Wm. V., and grandson, Wm. R. Sessions.)

APPENDIX.

HAMPDEN, MASS., *Dec.* 12, 1890.

F. C. Sessions, Esq.:

DEAR SIR — I received your letter of Dec. 2, requesting some facts about some old buildings. I will try to answer as best I can. And, first, the meeting-house on the green was built in the year 1783, but was not finished for several years. In 1837, it was moved to the corner on which it now stands, which corner was occupied before by the house of Capt. Charles Sessions. The lot was bought by the Congregational Society (Mr. Sessions moving his house off). An addition was built to the church for a belfry and bell. The inside was all taken out, and then fitted up in modern style and rededicated Feb., 1839. No heating apparatus was put in before 1825. In cold weather the women carried their foot stoves. The meetings continued both forenoon and afternoon, and their stoves needed replenishing at noon. Mr. Warren would have a fireplace full of bright coals, and those living at a distance would spend the noon hour at the parsonage and fill their stoves for the afternoon; the pastor's house was a place much like home to all.

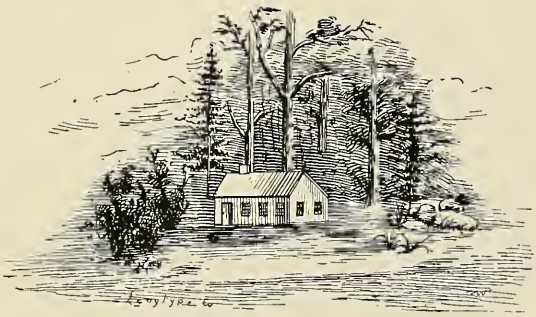
The old house where all of my father's children and yourself (except Betsey and Charles) were born was on the place when my father bought it, 1781. It was a small house of two rooms. Soon after he built an addition back of it, one story, and raised the front to two stories, and so it remained until 1839, when it was torn down.

The house that I occupy was built in 1815. There at both houses we lived, a large family, three miles from church privileges, but we were all taught by precept and example, by our parents, that our place on the Sabbath was to join the people of God in public worship. My father had a large sleigh in which ten or more could ride, and storms and drifts did not often keep us at home, and eleven of the twelve children made a profession of religion.

Rev. Mr. Warren, who was our pastor forty years, was a good man and true, and preached the truth as set forth by Christ and His apostles, notwithstanding those were the days of the great Unitarian movement in Massachusetts.

The old school-house where we all went to school was not built until 1790, possibly one or two years later, and before that was built they had school in private houses.

In 1845, a new school-house was built, and used until the town was divided. The district was then divided between the two towns, and the house was sold and moved away. If you can make any use of the foregoing facts, well; if not, as well.



The old School-House of Robert Sessions, District.

(Built in 1790.)

My wife joins me in wishing to be remembered to your wife and yourself.

WM. V. SESSIONS, aged 90.
LYDIA A. SESSIONS, aged 91.

REMINISCENCES OF MRS. JANE SESSIONS ROBINSON.

BLANDFORD, MASS., *Nov.* 26, 1890.

The old school-house is still remembered by many who are living who went to school there, and they say they remember attending school when there were over one hundred scholars from six to twenty years of age, with only one teacher, a man. I made a sketch of the school-house and showed it to a friend. Upon seeing it, she said: "I think I can spell 'Om-pam-pa-moo-sa' in that school-house; it looks like the one I used to spell it in."

I have also made a sketch of the old church. I remember going to Aunt Flynt's between forenoon and afternoon services to have the foot stove replenished with live new coals, and I can see, in my mind's eye, the different ones, sometimes men, or women, or children, all crossing "the green" in different directions with foot stoves in hand, going into the different houses to have them replenished with coals, which were always abundant in the large, open fireplaces that everybody used in those days. I remember also when, during a revival, there were sunrise meetings. I went, when a little girl, with my father

leading me, to attend it. The bright morning sky is still pictured on my memory. I also remember that the men stood when praying. I recollect also going with father to the monthly missionary concert which was always held on Monday afternoon at the parsonage. The box was always passed for a collection. Father, Robert Sessions, Jr., organized the first Sunday-school in town, as Mr. Warren did not think such schools were intended for any but large places. Father started it in his kitchen in the old house Sunday morning before church service. It was soon after opened in church Sunday noon, and he was superintendent until he left the church, I think. The Temperance and Anti-Slavery Societies were always reorganized by choice of officers in the old church, and I, with other little girls, used to sit in the front singing seats to look on and hear the nominations and excuses, etc. Uncles Sumner and William said, when on a visit once, that grandfather, Capt. Robert, let grandmother have so many rods of ground to be cultivated for her mission work, and the boys always took care of it and thought things grew better and it yielded more than the rest of the field, in proportion. I suppose some may remember of grandfather's horse backing out from the shed one time, when the services were longer than usual, and going to the front door and waiting for grandfather and grandmother to get in the chaise.

Reminiscences of My School-boy Days as I Look Back Upon Them at the Age of Three Score Years and Ten. F. C. S.

We have a good sketch of the old school-house in the woods between North and South Wilbraham, Mass., as it was about 1820, but long since torn down to give way for the more modern and improved school-house, or as calls the school-houses of New England. We walked from my grandfather's, Robert Sessions, farm-house about two miles to the old school-house, where all of his twelve or thirteen children received their rudimentary education. The deep snows in those days covered the fences in winter, and woe be to the small boy, as I was, if he had an older cousin along who delighted to push him off from the high drifts into the soft snow, below which sometimes required help to get out from under the snow and crawl upon the icy crust above. We were glad to reach the school-house and warm ourselves by the great fire in the open fire-place, where great sticks of green wood had been cut and brought in from the adjoining woods. My seat was on the lower row, with no desks in front, but covers on the seat, which we lifted and put in our outer garments and took out the books to learn our a, b, c's. There were three rows of seats with desks on their sides, the back seats for the older boys on one side and girls on the other. The upper tier had writing-desks with the

sharp edges against our backs when called upon to recite our lessons or at the opening and closing exercises, when we turned around with our faces toward the windows and our backs to the school-master while we were studying our lessons or writing. Each pupil had a writing-book made by the good mother at home, with a few sheets of ash paper stitched at the back with brown paper covers. Paper was not ruled at the paper factory in those days and a ruler and lead "plummet" was attached by a string with which we ruled the paper for coarse or fine hand, according to the progress made. The teacher took each writing-book after school and took them to his boarding place or in the school-room, set the copy at the head of the page, and we were required to copy as closely as possible on the page. As we were able to write sentences we had numerous historical, moral or sentimental sentences. "Washington is the capital of the United States." "Massachusetts is the old Bay State." "Knowledge is power," etc. We had no steel or gold pens, but the flocks of geese in the streets furnished the quills for the pens which the teacher was required to make or mend in addition to teaching ninety or one hundred scholars, which I remember were the number in one school which I attended in the village, the ages varying from four (my age) to seventeen or twenty in the winter, to twelve or fourteen in the summer. There were no regular books as now, but each one brought such books as he pleased; "classification was difficult."

Think of one teacher doing all teaching from a, b, c's up to Daboll's arithmetic, More's geography and Murray's grammar. The arithmetic and grammar lessons were a hard road to travel, but the geography was very simple. More's geography had no maps. Not a State existed west of the Mississippi, and from Ohio west and north was a vast territory which had been but little explored. "No one dared to dream of the vast progress the west was to make in a half century. and that the center of population of the country was to be transferred west of Ohio, and that cities were to grow up in the west larger than any that existed on the American continent."

I remember how cold the old school-house used to get sometimes when the ink would freeze, which, at an earlier day, "was made from the extract of maple bark or, if not, galls from the oak trees, which the pupils prepared at home." "May I go to the fire to thaw my ink?" "May I go to the fire to warm myself?" "Mend my pen, sir?" Half a dozen sometimes, waiting for their turn, would interrupt the teacher when hearing classes recite.

Recess time was a jolly time, when the snow balls would fly with a will; it lasted ten minutes. When the teacher would say, "girls may go out" and, afterward, "boys may go out," were happy words to us, and we made the welkin ring when we got out into the cold, breezy air.

The parsing lesson in the afternoon was very hard and, perhaps, but little understood. "In the parsing

lesson the dictionary was considerably thumbed to find out the classification of words, but we could often guess right before we got half way down the line from article to interjection." The books used by the older scholars were "Pope's Essay on Man," "Milton's Paradise Lost," "Pollock's Course of Time," were analyzed. The school was opened by the school or school-master reading a chapter in the Bible and by prayer by the teacher. Our teachers generally came from Yale or some of the New England colleges, and got about $12 to $16 a month and boarded around. We children were always glad to have the teacher come to our house to board, for my uncle Robert Sessions, who was my guardian, had a family of eight children, and he made a good, long stay and we had lots of good things to eat, as the school-master was held in high reverence and every thing was done to make his stay agreeable. He sometimes complained that the good people in the district all wanted him at "hog-killing time," when he could have plenty of "tenderloin" for breakfast, dinner and supper. And, he said, "he was called upon to eat so much fresh pork that the bristles would stick out on his face." Chickens were sometimes killed, and the good mother always had a "square meal" for him. The discipline of the school was very rigid. The "ferule" laid on the desk of the teacher, on one side of the great fire-place, which was the dread of all disobedient boys who dared to whisper or were caught in sending a missile, in writing,

to the girls. Once I was caught, as above, and called out into the middle of the floor and the "ruler" or "ferule," which was about two feet long, two inches wide and one inch thick, was well laid upon my open hand, which smarted for some time. It was the only time I was caught and punished. I do not remember ever to have seen a girl punished in that way, but, sometimes, they were obliged to sit with the boys; which seemed a great disgrace. Only think how dreadful the punishment! Think, too, how the innocent boy suffered when the girl was compelled to sit with him.

In summer sessions the good old fire-place was filled with pine boughs showing the æsthetic taste of the "school marm," and she brought into requisition the dry pine boughs for punishment.

The spelling lesson was a great place for a happy time for those who won. "Attention," says the teacher, when every head was erect, "manners," every boy made his bow and every girl a "curtesy." The words were then pronounced from the columns of Webster's spelling-book, and when one failed the next in the class, who succeeded, went above. To leave off at the lead was to win the laurels. So four or five classes took turns in the exercises. The etiquette of the school-room is somewhat departed from those days. Then when the pupil entered the room the boy took off his cap and made a bow to the teacher, and the girl her curtesy, and so on leaving the school-room. A passer-by on the street received

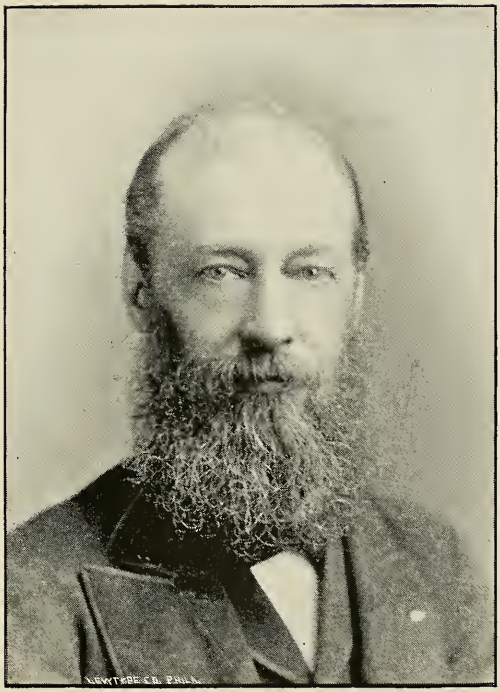
like attention from the children. The passengers on the stage coach were similarly greeted. Age and gray hairs were always respected, and no token of disrespect was allowed by either teacher or parent to the passer-by, even though clothed in rags. I have heard in some schools that every Saturday forenoon the catechism was recited, and most of them could answer, "What is the chief end of man?" With us we learned this every Sunday morning or Saturday afternoon from the old pastor, Rev. Dr. Moses Warren, who in his preaching would often arouse his sleepy hearers from their slumbers when he had any thing particular to emphasize by raising his voice to a high pitch and pounding the pulpit. At the close of the school year the parents were invited to come to the school to see what progress the pupils had made. The writing-books were passed around and recitations of their studies were closed up with a little elocution. I remember one of my speeches commenced with, "My voice is still for war; Gods, can a Roman Senate long debate?" etc. Another speech was, "You'd scarce expect one of my age to speak in public on the stage."

More than six decades have passed since the scenes here given transpired in the old school-house. The schoolmasters and schoolmams of the period have all passed away. The lads and lassies of those years, if still remaining on the hither side of the river, are now gray-haired and have wrinkled brows. Their children grown up, and grandchildren cling to their

knees. They will remember that no profane word was ever heard on their play-grounds, and no obscene word from the lads caused the fair girls to blush. Not one of these youths, so far as I know, has become a drunkard. The boys who used to play on the old village green in front of the old church as soon as the sun was down on Sunday nights (Sunday commenced in those days at sundown Saturday nights, when all work and play were laid aside) are well remembered. How we used to ring out "Ompompulloway, come away or I will fetch you away," then the play commenced with a "vim and vigor" until nine o'clock, when we were all at our homes ready for a good sound sleep. From the spelling schools we used to ask the girls "If we could have the pleasure of accompanying them home." We sometimes got the "mitten," which added to the fun of all except the poor recipient, who was crestfallen and despondent. One night the girls had arranged to change shawls and hoods, as they came out of the singing-school, and each beau as usual selected his girl by her outer garments, and after going some distance silently all the girls burst out with a hearty laugh as the boys began to talk sweetly to them, each boy finding to his disgust that he had somebody else's girl. No subsequent friendships and loving memories will cling to us like those formed when we were children and youth together in our school days.

Biographical Sketch of Frederick Sessions.

He was born in 1836, and is just able to say that he has lived in the reigns of two sovereigns, as Queen Victoria ascended the throne in 1837. His father was Jesse Sessions, who was mayor of Gloucester in his eightieth year, and is now eighty-seven years of age. He has been a teetotaler for fifty-four years; was one of the earliest, is still an alderman of the borough, a guardian of the poor, on the committee of county infirmary, and elder of the Society of Friends. Frederick Sessions' mother was Eliza, daughter of John Shipley. There is a branch in Cincinnati of same family. She is a minister of rather remarkable gifts, very philanthropic, originator and lady superintendent of House of Hope for the Friendless. She died three or four years ago. Her work is carried on by Frederick Sessions' oldest sister, Edith Sessions, also a minister among the Friends. Frederick Sessions is the oldest of eleven children; five only are surviving. He was educated at Sidcot School, an endowed school belonging to the Friends in Somersetshire. He left at fifteen and entered his father's business. He is still a member of "J. Sessions & Sons," building material merchants and manufacturers, though now he is taking very little active part in it, his brothers, Arthur and Herbert taking the active management. He has always been fond of literary pursuits and engaged in work for temperance, peace and other reforms; is an ardent



FREDERICK SESSIONS,
Gloucester, Eng.

Liberal in politics, a minister of the Friends, has traveled extensively in the British islands preaching and lecturing. "Gospel Temperance True Life Histories" have been widely circulated. He has written several peace tracts and theological pamphlets from Quaker standpoint. He was married in 1863 to Mary L. Jeffrey, daughter of a well-known Quaker minister, Russell Jeffrey, who travelled in India preaching the gospel about thirty years ago. He visited India in a similar way in 1890. He has six children, five boys and one girl, some of whom are training for missionaries for India. They are Harold, Wilfred, Walter, Frederick, Edgar and Hilda.

The Gloucester Sessions family came from Oxfordshire, bordering on Gloucestershire, and have not been Friends more than three generations. Frederick Sessions is a member of foreign and home missionary committees of Society of Friends, executive of the Western Temperance League, a Good Templar and Rechabite. He has written for the Chicago *Christian Worker* which has brought him many friends in America, whom he hopes he may some day visit in the love of Christ for Quaker churches and others.

Biographical Sketch of Walter L. Sessions.

Jamestown, *December* 26, 1890.

He was born at Brandon, Vt., and, in 1835, his father moved to Chautauqua county, N. Y., and set-

tled in an unbroken wilderness with his five boys and two daughters, of whom Walter L. was the second son. He lived on the farm till he was of age, learning all about the out-door business incident to new country. The children were educated to believe in and practice constant, daily industry, the most rigid economy, temperance and honesty in all things.

He was educated in the common schools and the academy at Westfield, N. Y.

He taught school several terms, and was superintendent of schools many years.

He began the study of law soon after he was of age, and was admitted to the Supreme Court of New York, which permits a lawyer to practice in all the courts of the State. Has also been admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The practice of law has been his business, including some attention to farming.

In 1853 and 1854 he was a member of New York Assembly, and in the latter year was chairman of the committee of ways and means, being the youngest man who ever held that position in our Legislature.

In 1860 and 1861, and in 1866 and 1867 he was a member of New York State Senate, and chairman of the finance committee of that body for the four years he was a member.

The position of chairman of the ways and means and finance committees of the New York Legislature is the same as in Congress, regarded as the most responsible positions in those bodies.

In 1870, 1872 and 1884, he was elected to the 42d, 43d and 44th Congresses, as a republican, and served six years in the House, and, in those six years, he was absent only nine days from his seat while the House was in session.

Since his retirement from Congress he has been actively engaged in his profession, trying some of the most important civil and criminal cases prosecuted in his county of 78,000 population.

He is as sound to-day in bodily and mental health as in his boyhood days.

His grandfather, Walter Sessions, who was born July 27, 1768, at Union, Connecticut, used to say, "that he never knew one of the name who was ever in the poor-house or committed a crime."

He was one of the most scrupulously honest men in all the relations of life. W. L.'s mother used to say that John Sessions, the father of his grandfather, who was born at Roxbury, Mass., June 6, 1746, "was one of the grandest men, physically and honorably, she ever saw." He died at Brandon, Vt.

At the age of twenty-seven he married Mary R. Terry, daughter of the Hon. Silas Terry of his county. They had one son and two daughters. The daughters were educated at Elmira and Vassar colleges and his son at Hamilton College. The daughters are distinguished for considerable writing ability. The oldest married the Hon. C. P. Ingersoll, of his county, and the other (Edith) married Mr. Horace E. Tupper. They both live in New York

city. His son, who is twenty-four years old, has been admitted to the Supreme Court and is practicing law in New York city. His office is in the new *World* building. His name is Walter L. Sessions, Jr. He seems to have very natural abilities in the line of his profession.

There are six lawyers in his family: His brother, L. B. Sessions, and his son, two nephews, Walter L. and his son.

There is also in New York city a John Sessions of No. 32 Pine street. He is a graduate of college, and a very able and honorable lawyer. He has a son, a graduate of Yale, who is in the law. John's father, Amasa Sessions, was born at Union, Conn., and was cousin to Walter's grandfather. Alonzo Sessions, of Michigan (who was lieutenant-governor a few years since) was brother to John.

Walter L. says: "Our people, as far as I can trace them back, all had an untiring impulse to rise to be somebody." Loren B., his brother, is a prominent lawyer, and has been a member of the New York State Senate.

Biographical Sketch of Rev. John Sessions, D. D.

John Sessions was born September 29, 1795, in Westminster, Vt. He graduated at Dartmouth College, and at the Theological Seminary at Princeton. He was pastor of the Presbyterian church in Adams,

Jefferson county, N. Y., and then of the church in Norwich seven years, afterward professor of English literature in the Albany Academy, N. Y. He received the honorary degree of D. D. from Madison College, New York. He married Eliza Winne, of Albany, in 1825, who was born in 1798. They had five children, Cornelia Ann, George Washburn, John Winne, who died in Oakland, Cal., a few years ago, Helen E. and Edward C., still living in Oakland, Cal., and president of the Oakland Savings Bank. The Rev. John Sessions died in Oakland, Cal., several years ago.

Biographical Sketch of Alonzo Sessions, of Ionia, Mich.

Hon. Alonzo Sessions was born August 4, 1810, at Marcellus, Onondaga county, N. Y. His grandfather had a family of eleven children, all of whom were obliged to earn their own living. Of these, Amasa Sessions, father of Alonzo, was the eldest, and at the age of nineteen made his way on foot into the wilderness of central New York, and settled near Skaneateles lake, where he remained until near the time of his death, which occurred in 1838. He married Phebe Smith, the youngest daughter of Job Smith, an officer in the Revolutionary army. They had nine children.

In 1833, Alonzo Sessions left his native State and traveled most of the way on foot from Detroit to the

United States land office at White Pigeon, Mich. He followed the Indian trail to the site of the present city of Ionia, where he located. There he found five families, part of them living in unfinished log-cabins and the others in Indian wigwams. His brother Job accompanied him. He married in August, 1837, Celia, daughter of Judge Dexter, the pioneer of Ionia county. They have had twelve children, seven of whom are living, and are as follows: A daughter who died in infancy; Sidney Smith Sessions, born January 6, 1840, killed in the Civil war in May, 1862; John Alonzo Sessions, born August 22, 1842, a farmer living on part of the family homestead near Ionia; Henry Clay S., born October 7, 1844, a banker now living at Columbia, So. Dak.; Frederick, who died in infancy, twin of Frank Arthur S., born December 17, 1848, cashier of First National Bank, Ionia, Mich.; Elizabeth E. S., born August 22, 1851, married M. Shelton in 1874, now living at Brisbane, Australia; Lelia J., born June 5, 1854, married R. W. Covert 1878, now living on the family homestead near Ionia; Ralph Dexter, born April 12, 1856; Clyde, born February 23, 1858, died in 1859; Hattie, born September 10, 1859, died 1865; Carrie M., born March 25, 1862, unmarried, living with H. C. Sessions of Columbia, So. Dak.

Alonzo Sessions held several township and county offices of trust covering a period of many years. His work on the farm was carried on steadily with cour-

age and confidence. Land has been added until it has increased from three hundred to one thousand acres.

Mr. Sessions was elected to the State Legislature in 1856, 1858 and 1860. During his last term of service, he was appointed by President Lincoln assessor of internal revenue for the Fourth Congressional district of Michigan. He faithfully discharged the duties of the office for four years, when on his disapproval of President Johnson's "policy," he was removed.

He and others organized the First National Bank of Ionia, of which he has been president since 1866. He was president of the Farmers' Fire Insurance Company for several years. In 1872 he was chosen by the Republicans of Michigan as one of the presidential electors. In 1876, without any effort on his part, he was elected lieutenant-governor by a majority of sixteen thousand. In 1878, he was renominated and re-elected to this office. He was an able, impartial, prompt and faithful presiding officer.

He died July 3, 1886, at his home in Ionia, nearly seventy-six years of age.

John A. Sessions married Sarah A. Eagle, August 17, 1864.

1st child, Clara M., born February 14, 1866.
2d child, Harriet Melissa, born June 16, 1867.
3d child, Clyde E., born March 8, 1872.
4th child, Roy J., born October 22, 1874.
5th child, Celia D., born October 8, 1877.

The children of H. C. Sessions are
Alonzo Bangs Sessions, born July 20, 1876.
Katherian Webb Sessions, born August 3, 1878.
Jay Bagley Sessions, born August 10, 1880.

Children of Mrs. R. W. Covert:
1st child, Sidney D., born August 9, 1879.
2d child, Hal Sessions, born January 27, 1887.

Children of Ralph D. Sessions, married Iola Kenyon, December 22, 1881:
1st child, Maud, born May 11, 1883.
2d child, Russell Alger, born September 21, 1886.

Life of Judge Wm. M. Sessions.

Judge William Moultrie Sessions, of the firm of Sessions & Sessions, attorneys at Marietta, Cobb county, Ga., was born in Spalding county, Ga., March 12, 1827, and is a son of Asa and Wennaford Sessions.

Asa Sessions was born in 1783; was a soldier in the War of 1812, and for many years a justice of the peace. By vocation he was a farmer. Was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a son of John Sessions, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war under General Moultrie.

Judge W. M. Sessions is the only living son born to his parents, two of his brothers having been killed in the late war between the States. He was reared

on the home farm and received an ordinary school education. He read law with P. B. Cox, and was admitted to the bar in 1849, but, on account of his depleted finances, did not at once enter upon the practice of his profession. Nothing daunted, however, he taught school two years, and for another year clerked in the office of State. Having thus replenished his purse, to some extent, he went to Homersville, Appling county, Ga., and opened his office, and it was not long before his talents and industry attracted attention, and honor was soon achieved. In 1860 he was elected judge of the Superior Court of the Brunswick circuit, and for fouteen years he filled the office to the entire satisfaction of the public. In 1866 he removed to Blackshear, Pierce county, Ga.; in May, 1875, after retiring from the bench, he settled in Marietta, where he has since been constantly engaged in the practice of his profession. In January, 1886, he was elected mayor of Marietta, without opposition, and declined another election.

His marriage took place August 27, 1862, to Miss Melissa C. McKinney, a native of South Carolina, and a daughter of James and Melinda (McKenzie) McKinney, and this union has been blessed with the birth of eight children, of whom seven are living. Moultrie M., the junior member of the law firm of Sessions & Sessions, Walter L. a member of the largest dry-goods and notions house in north Georgia, Brantley, Sessions & Co., who own their own magnificent storehouse, the pride of Marietta and surrounding country;

Sallie M. and Susie W. are twins; Carrie, George H. and Lena J. Sessions. Sallie, Susie and Carrie are recent graduates of the Wesleyan Female College of Macon, Ga.

Judge Sessions is a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight of Honor. He is a man of commanding figure. He and his entire family are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, South.

Moultrie M. Sessions, eldest son of Judge M. M. Sessions, was born in Cherokee county, Ga., August 22, 1863, and was educated in the schools at Blackshear and Marietta. His law studies were under the direction of Phillips & Sessions, and on his admission to the bar, in 1882, he at once formed a co-partnership with Judge H. W. Hammett, the style of the firm being Sessions & Hammett. The following year he was appointed county attorney and county administrator, and served one year, and, resigning at that time, moved to Gilmer county, Ga., and served as solicitor of the county court twelve months; in 1885 he returned to Marietta to form a partnership with his father, Judge Sessions, under the firm name of Sessions & Sessions. The firm represents several large banks, loan companies and building and loan associations of Atlanta, Ga. He is at the head of a new abstract of title company in Cobb county. He was married October 12, 1887, to Miss Alice Paige, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, daughter of Joseph and Sarah C. (Stebbins) Paige, of Marietta, Ga. Mr. Sessions joined the Methodist church when seventeen

years of age, and has been an active member since that time. Has been a delegate to several annual conferences, State Sunday-school conventions, and political conventions. His marriage has been blessed with one fine, little boy, born in fall of 1888.

WM. R. SESSIONS, BORN DECEMBER 3, 1835.

His grandfather was Robert, born 1752, and his father was Wm. V., born 1801. He was an officer in the Union army and for a time a prisoner in Libby prison. He was selectman and moderator of Wilbraham, Mass., his home, held several other county and town offices, was representative in the State Legislature of Massachusetts, and later senator for two terms. In 1887 he was appointed secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, which position he still holds.

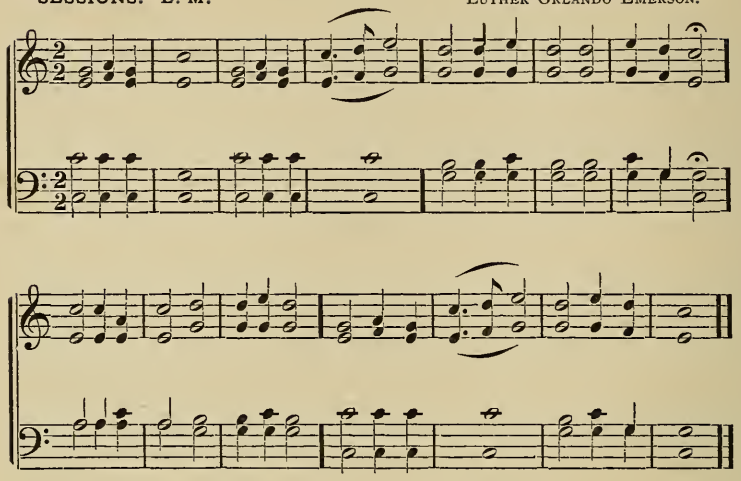
A LETTER FROM PROF. L. O. EMERSON TO F. C. SESSIONS.

FINDLAY, O., *Dec.* 17, 1890.

Mr. F. C. Sessions:

DEAR SIR—Yours at hand. I have been requested many times to give a history of the tune "Sessions," and two or three times have done so, still I always feel a delicacy about doing it. In your case I can

SESSIONS. L. M. LUTHER ORLANDO EMERSON.



hardly refuse. Well, I must be as brief as possible, as I have but a little time to spare. When I composed "Sessions" I was living in the city of Salem, Mass. It was in 1847. The year of my marriage. I was alone in my house, my wife being on a visit to her parents in Boston. One Sabbath afternoon I took up my hymn book and the hymn beginning with the lines "Sinner, Oh, why so thoughtless grown," came to my eye. It made a wonderful impression upon me. I read it over and over again. I then knelt down and had a season of prayer, and immediately after I composed the tune. It came to me without effort. It made such an impression upon me that I made enough copies of it to use in my choir. It became very popular at once with the choir and also with the congregation. I used it several years

in this way before it was published in any book. My pastor at that time was the Rev. Alexander I. Sessions, a Congregational minister, and I named the tune for him. After a few years I moved to Boston to live, and for several years did not see much of Mr. Sessions. Occasionally met him. Have neither seen or heard from him for quite a number of years. When last I heard from him he was living in Beverly, Mass. If living, I presume he is still there. Of his history I know nothing. Such is the history of the tune "Sessions," which I believe is destined to out-live scores of much better ones that I have composed since.

Very truly yours,

L. O. Emerson.

Pullman, Ill., *Nov.* 17, 1890.

Mr. Francis C. Sessions, Columbus, O.:

My Dear Sir — I am in receipt of your favor of 15th inst., and have read the same with much interest. I am the person mentioned in connection with Pullman vestibule suits.

Now, as for lineage, etc.

I was born in St. Lawrence county, New York State, June 21, 1847. My father, Milton Sessions, aged seventy-two, was born in Braintree, Vt. His father's name was Rufus Sessions, brother of John, Charles, Horace and Ebenezer Sessions. All these

brothers came from either Hampton or Pomfret, Conn.

Rufus' father's name was John, brother of Josiah and Asahel Sessions, who, we believe, came from England, though of this we are not certain.

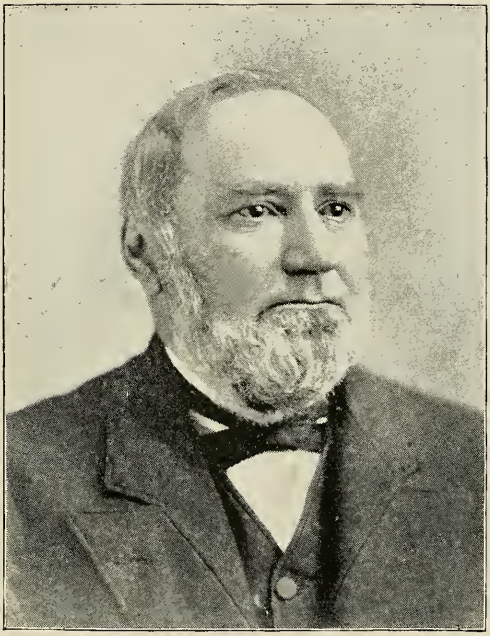
Milton Sessions, my father, has for the past forty years been prominently connected with public works and railroad car building. He has now retired and is living with me.

There are living in Chautauqua county, N. Y., Walter and Loren Sessions who are or have been member of Assembly and Congressman, respectively. Walter is the father of Edith Sessions Tupper, a lady writer of some prominence.

About the year 1860, there lived in Watertown, N. Y., a John Sessions who was superintendent of public instruction. He had two sons, one named E. C. Sessions, now president of Oakland Bank, Oakland, Alameda county, Cal. This E. C. could probably give you more information regarding our *tribe* than anybody else of the name.

I mention it in this connection as my mother, Rosannah Sessions, who died three years since in Minnesota, spent several years in collecting the data from which to make a history, and corresponded with E. C. S.

Two years ago, while I was in Oakland, he showed me a "family tree" as far as he had been able to work it out, and was very anxious to add further information to it. I will refer your letter to him, and he will no doubt write you.



Judge **WM. M. SESSIONS,**
Marietta, Ga.

I have many fragmentary scraps, but there are so many missing links that they might not interest you in your compilations.

I will give you a few samples, and if they become tedious you need not pursue them.

In Mississippi I found two families, wealthy planters once, but ruined by the war. They have recovered again, and are now wealthy sugar-makers. They could tell me but little of their antecedents except that their ancestors were from Connecticut. Myron Hibbard Sessions, general in the late war, and later Congressman or Senator. He now resides in Minneapolis, Minn., practicing law.

Horace and Walter Sessions, East Middlebury, Vt., well-to-do farmers and stockmen ; are from the Vermont tribe.

I found in Toucson, Ariz., C. B. Sessions, banker and real estate man. He left there and returned to his home in South Carolina.

Constantine Sessions of Reno, Nev., once a wealthy ranchman, now in poor circumstances, having lost his money in gold-mining experiments.

I could cite many others, but will not take more of your time now.

If you should feel interested, I will give you further and more specific information.

Our branch of the *tribe* has an *heirloom* in the nature of a tradition, said to be well authenticated, as to the origin of the Sessions family.

At some future time I will relate it to you if you feel interested.

As for myself, I am forty-three years old, married, no children. I am and have been manager of the Pullman palace car works for the past five years. For the twenty years prior to coming with this company I was engaged on several railroads as master mechanic, superintendent car departments, and other mechanical positions.

I am the inventor of the "vestibule," the anti-telescoping device for railroad cars, the air-brake for street cars, and several other devices now in general use on railroads.

I shall take pleasure in procuring your books of which the press speaks so flatteringly.

I shall be glad to hear from you again at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,
H. H. Sessions.

Pullman, Ill., *Nov.* 23, 1890.

F. C. Sessions, Esq.:

My Dear Sir — I have your favor of 18th inst. In my last letter I gave you the names of the East Middlebury, Vt., Sessions as Horace and Walter. Speaking with my father on the subject, he corrects me, saying their names are Charles and Wallace; yet I distinctly remember hearing one of the East Middlebury Sessions children speak of their "Uncle Horace." My father had four brothers, viz.: Storrs, died in Norfolk, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., about forty

years ago; John, an invalid, died about ten years ago; Philo, a carriage builder, now living in South Hadley Falls, Mass., and Ira, a prosperous farmer, living in Kansas. He had also two sisters, Martha, widow of Eben Watson, she resides in this city with her adopted son, Lewis, who works in the Pullman works, and Persis Crosby, living in Colorado.

During a visit in San Francisco, Cal., two years since, in looking over the city directory I came across the following names:

D. R. Sessions, literary correspondent of "The History Co.," 721 Market St., San Francisco.

Geo. W., mining and real estate, 63 Nevada Block.

Milton P., teaming, 304 California St.

Robert V., tobacco dealer, 219 Broadway.

Wm. W., teaming, 805 Franklin St.

Wilkes B., 317 Ellis St.

I did not meet any of these personally, but on inquiry I learned that they were all reputable persons.

Our branch of the family takes no little pride in the reputation of the people of the name, as it is one of the boasts of the tribe that, so far as we have been able to learn, no "Sessions" has ever been connected with, nor convicted of, a crime.

About seven years since, when my mother had collected a large amount of data on this subject, which embraced a voluminous correspondence with John Sessions of Oakland, Cal., she sent it entire to C. B. Sessions, at Toucson, Ariz., with request that he add what information he could and return it.

C. B. left Toucson shortly after, returning to his former home somewhere in South Carolina, and the matter was lost. It is possible that E. C., of Oakland, could supply copies of this lost correspondence, much of it being printed matter.

There is in Chicago a well-to-do grocery merchant named, I think, A. E. or E. A. Sessions, whom I could see if it would be of any advantage to you to have his antecedents.

In fact, there is hardly a city of any importance whose directories do not give several of our name, and it might be considered an interminable task to locate them all, or even to interview all whose addresses we could obtain in this way.

If you will kindly give me any suggestions on this point I might be able to pick up quite a goodly amount of data that would aid you in your compilation.

I would ask if your business ever brings you to Chicago. If so, and if you will advise me when you expect to be here, I will take pleasure in meeting you.

I am feeling a deep interest in your book, and trust you will advise me when published so that I may procure several copies.

Trusting that I may again have the pleasure of hearing from you, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

H. H. Sessions.

Genealogical Table of the Sessions Family.

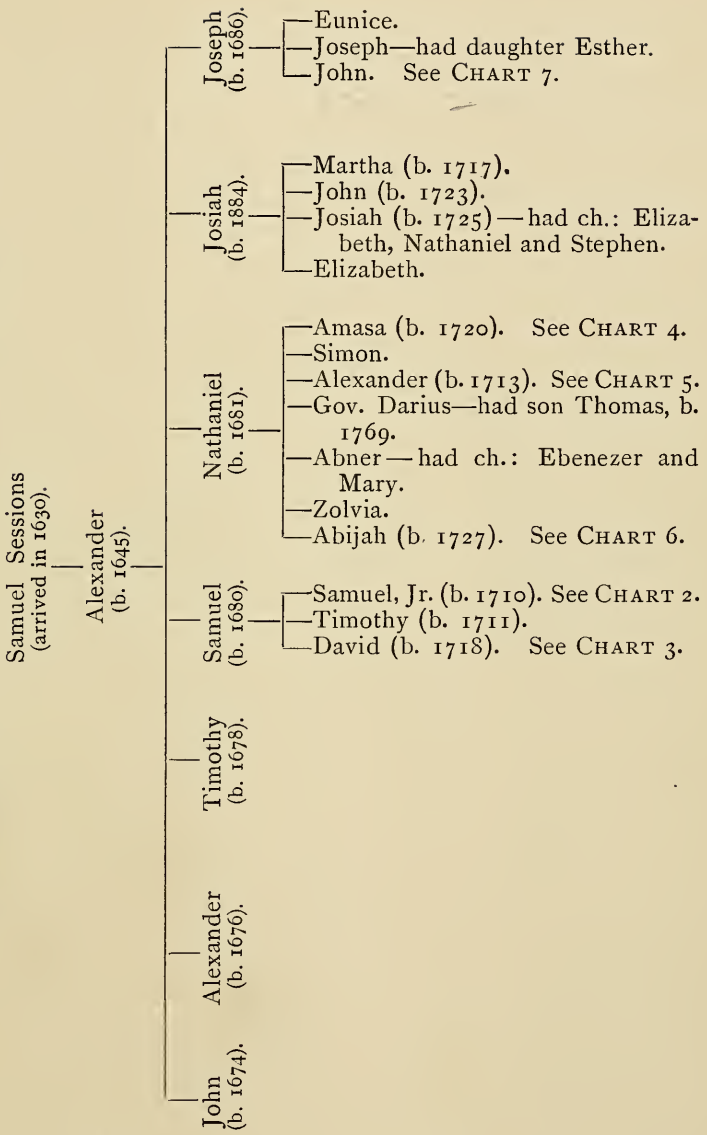


Chart 2.

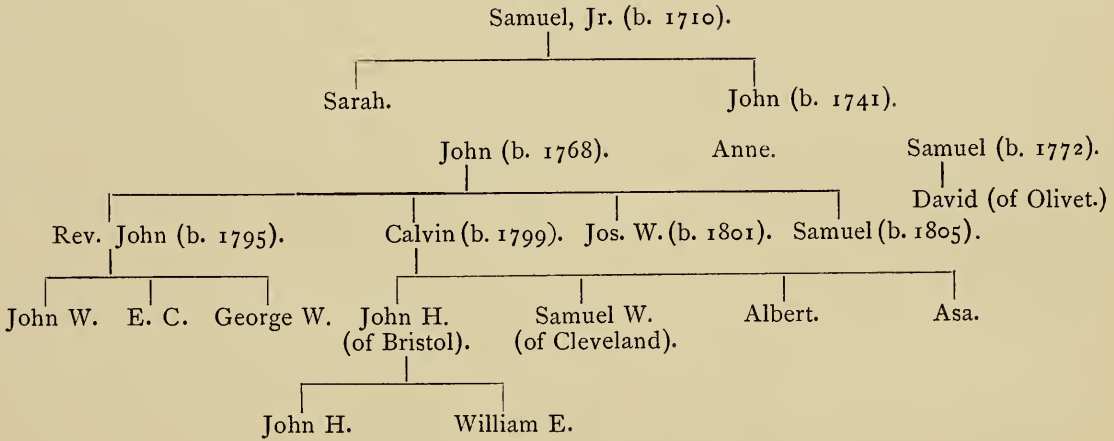

Samuel, Jr. (b. 1710).
Sarah.
John (b. 1741).
John (b. 1768).
Anne.
Samuel (b. 1772).
David (of Olivet.)
Rev. John (b. 1795).
Calvin (b. 1799).
Jos. W. (b. 1801).
Samuel (b. 1805).
John W.
E. C.
George W.
John H. (of Bristol).
Samuel W. (of Cleveland).
Albert.
Asa.
John H.
William E.

Chart 3.

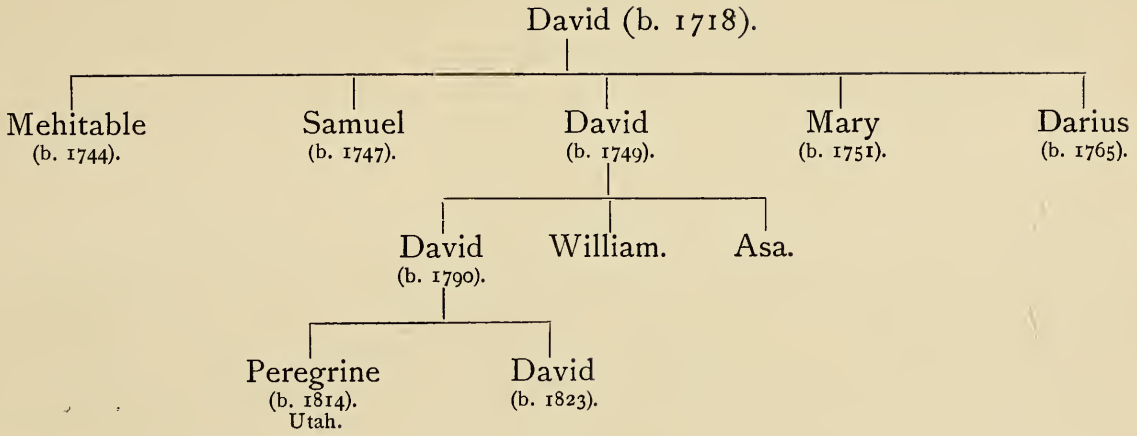

David (b. 1718).
Mehitable
(b. 1744).
Samuel
(b. 1747).
David
(b. 1749).
Mary
(b. 1751).
Darius
(b. 1765).
David
(b. 1790).
William.
Asa.
Peregrine
(b. 1814).
Utah.
David
(b. 1823).

CHART 4.

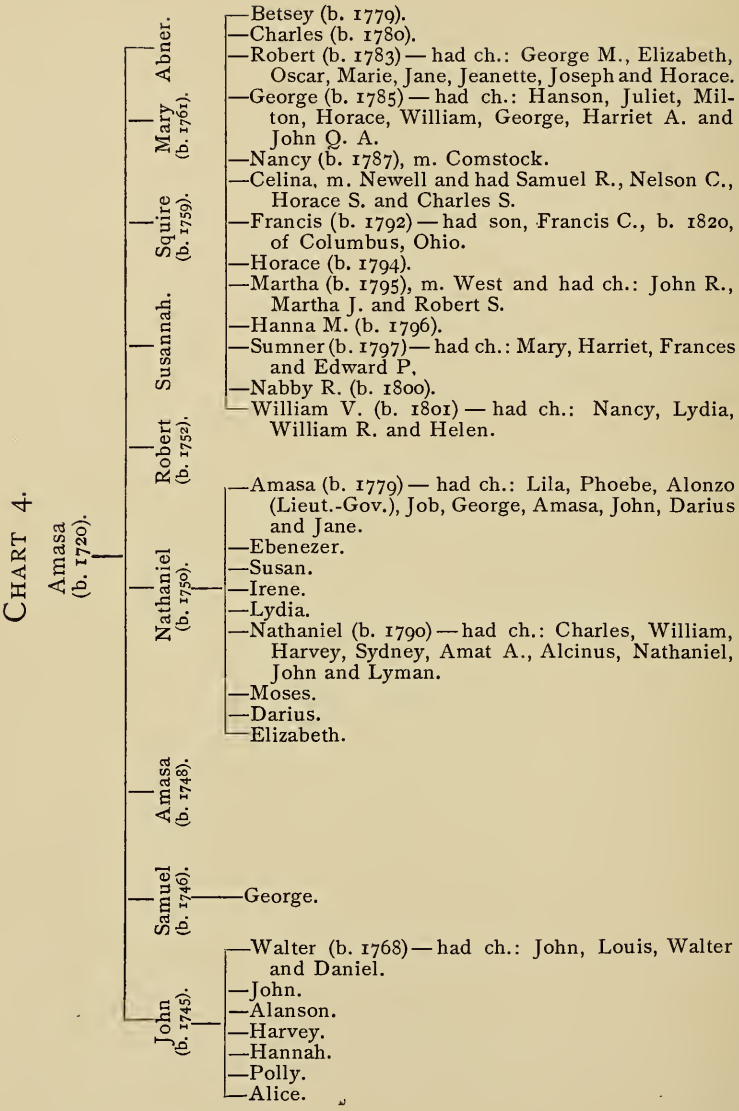

Amasa (b. 1720).
Abner.
Mary (b. 1761).
Squire (b. 1759).
Susannah.
Robert (b. 1752).
Nathaniel (b. 1750).
Amasa (b. 1748).
Samuel (b. 1746).
John (b. 1745).
—Betsey (b. 1779).
—Charles (b. 1780).
—Robert (b. 1783) — had ch.: George M., Elizabeth, Oscar, Marie, Jane, Jeanette, Joseph and Horace.
—George (b. 1785) — had ch.: Hanson, Juliet, Milton, Horace, William, George, Harriet A. and John Q. A.
—Nancy (b. 1787), m. Comstock.
—Celina, m. Newell and had Samuel R., Nelson C., Horace S. and Charles S.
—Francis (b. 1792) — had son, Francis C., b. 1820, of Columbus, Ohio.
—Horace (b. 1794).
—Martha (b. 1795), m. West and had ch.: John R., Martha J. and Robert S.
—Hanna M. (b. 1796).
—Sumner (b. 1797) — had ch.: Mary, Harriet, Frances and Edward P.
—Nabby R. (b. 1800).
—William V. (b. 1801) — had ch.: Nancy, Lydia, William R. and Helen.
—Amasa (b. 1779) — had ch.: Lila, Phoebe, Alonzo (Lieut.-Gov.), Job, George, Amasa, John, Darius and Jane.
—Ebenezer.
—Susan.
—Irene.
—Lydia.
—Nathaniel (b. 1790) — had ch.: Charles, William, Harvey, Sydney, Amat A., Alcinus, Nathaniel, John and Lyman.
—Moses.
—Darius.
—Elizabeth.
—George.
—Walter (b. 1768) — had ch.: John, Louis, Walter and Daniel.
—John.
—Alanson.
—Harvey.
—Hannah.
—Polly.
—Alice.

CHART 5.

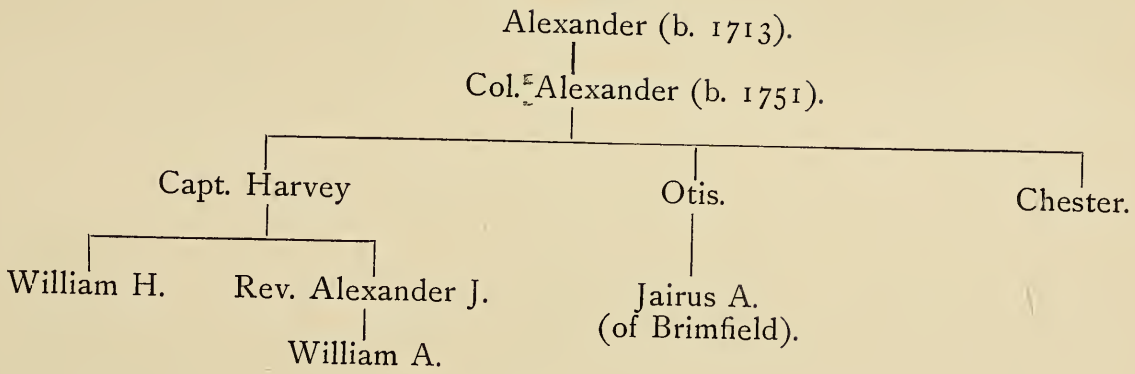

Alexander (b. 1713).
Col. Alexander (b. 1751).
Capt. Harvey
Otis.
Chester.
William H.
Rev. Alexander J.
Jairus A.
(of Brimfield).
William A.

CHART 6.

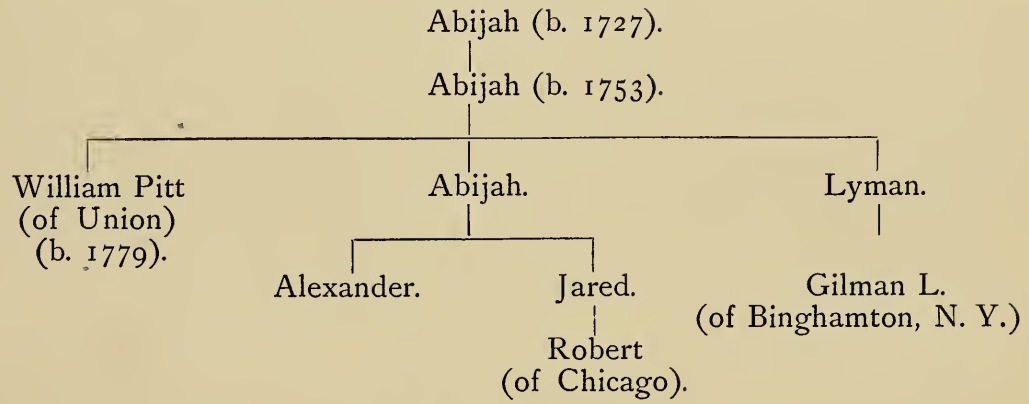
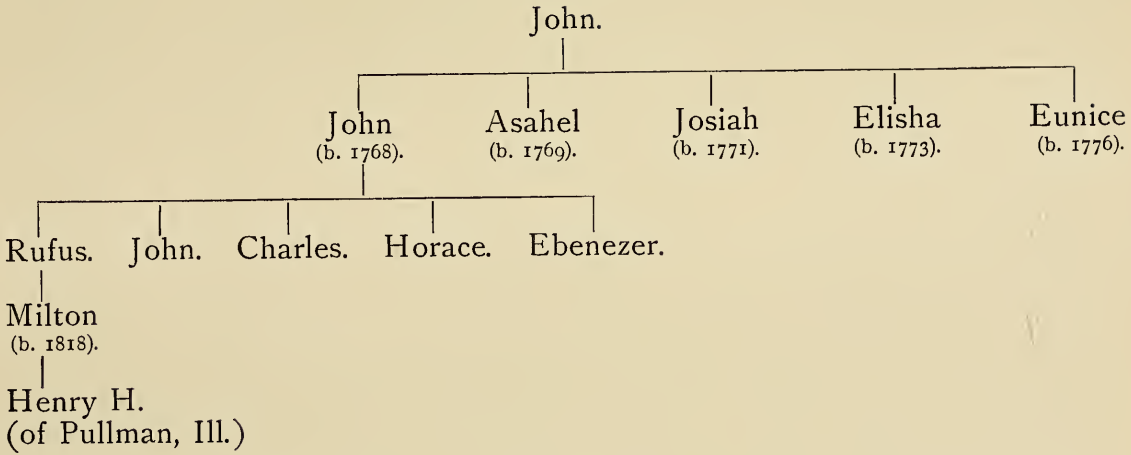

Abijah (b. 1727).
Abijah (b. 1753).
William Pitt (of Union) (b. 1779).
Abijah.
Lyman.
Alexander.
Jared.
Gilman L. (of Binghamton, N. Y.)
Robert (of Chicago).

CHART 7.


John.
John
(b. 1768).
Asahel
(b. 1769).
Josiah
(b. 1771).
Elisha
(b. 1773).
Eunice
(b. 1776).
Rufus.
John.
Charles.
Horace.
Ebenezer.
Milton
(b. 1818).
Henry H.
(of Pullman, Ill.)

Letter of J. F. Sessions to H. M. Sessions, Tongaloo, Miss.

Brookhaven, Miss., *July* 22, 1890.

My Dear Sir—I am glad that Mr. F. C. Sessions of Columbus, Ohio, has undertaken to collect the materials for a family history. I have had the pleasure of receiving a number of documents from him during the past few years. I hope I may meet him some day in Columbus.

James P. Sessions (the writer of the letter dated February 20, 1860) is now dead. His widow and daughter live in Birmingham, Ala. He was my first cousin. Our grandfather, Richard Sessions, Sr., lived and died in Sampson county, N. C., but I am informed by some relatives still living in North Carolina that he was not a native of that State; but I have been unable to trace back any further. His wife was *Esther Boone, not a cousin* but a niece of Daniel Boone of Kentucky. She was a daughter of Joseph Boone a brother of Daniel. The Boone descendants are numerous over the south and west, and include some notable people, among them a late attorney-general of Missouri and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, who was a Todd.

My father, *Jesse Sessions*, who was a son of Richard Sessions, Sr., was born in Sampson county, N. C., in January, 1782. I am his youngest son and the only one surviving.

My uncle, Joseph Sessions (the father of James P.), came to Natchez and settled on Grand creek long before the establishment of a State government in Mississippi. In fact he was one of the framers of the constitution of the State at the territorial convention held in 1817, at the old town of Washington, in Adams county. It was under this constitution that the Territory was admitted into the Union as a State.

Very truly yours,

J. F. Sessions.

Letter of Dr. Lewe Sessions to H. M. Sessions, Tongaloo, Miss.

Union Springs, Ala., *July* 10, 1890.

My Dear Sir — As my father died when I was very small, and being remote from relatives of my father's family, I knew but little of the history of my ancestry. This, however, I have, that we are of French descent, and that there were three brothers, two of whom married, one settling in a southern and one in a northern State, and all of the family that I have met give something like the same history. My grandfather was a Revolutionary soldier from North Carolina; was born and reared there and afterward moved to the State of Georgia. Raised four sons, James, Robert, Asa and Frederick. My father was the youngest. The young man, H. M. Sessions, is a grandson of Asa. Judge Sessions of Marietta, Ga.,

is a son of Asa, and uncle of H. M. He is now paying teller in a bank that I have started in Dale county, at Ozark, Ala., south of this.

When you get your history completed and printed, would be glad to see a copy. As I told you, I practiced medicine the past twenty years of my manhood and have been engaged in the drug business, since cotton business and farming. Have now been in the banking business about fourteen years, have been in the Association of the State Banks at Montgomery, Ala., and also director, and also am interested in Clayton Banking Company, Barbour county, and Planters and Merchants' bank, Ozark, Ala., and am a director in each.

Historical Sketch of M. H. Sessions, Esq., of Minneapolis, Minn.

His great-grandfather's name was Daniel and of two of his children, Daniel, who lived and died in Windham, Conn. His grandfather, John Sessions, was married to Hannah Robbins of Providence, R. I., in 1789, at Windham, Conn. They had children as follows: John (father of M. H.), also Rufus, Betsey, Hannah, Charles, Ebeneser and Horace. In 1802, he with his wife and two children (M. H.'s father and Rufus) moved to Braintree, Vt., where he died in March, 1843.

John Sessions, Jr., enlisted as a private at Ran-

dolph, Vt., in the War of 1812, and started for Plattsburgh. The battle was fought before he with others arrived there. He was married in Randolph, Vt., January 29, 1821, to Marina P. Hebard, and died there January 15, 1868. Children as follows: Milan Hebard Sessions of Minneapolis, born December 4, 1821; Erastus Constantine Sessions, born August 19, 1823; Marina Elizabeth Sessions, born July 4, 1830.

Rufus was married at Brookfield, Vt., in 1819, to Asenath Hall. He died in Potsdam, N. Y., years ago. They had children as follows: Stoors, Milton, Philo, Martha, Ira, Persis and John.

Betsey married Erastus Bump and died without issue.

Hannah married Darius M. Dewey at Randolph in 1824, and died in Waupaca, Wis. Their children were Cornelia, Harriet, Horace, Hymen, Dana F., Minerva, Charles, Mary and Maria.

All that is known of Charles and family is that he married and lived for years in Sailsbury, Vt., had three children, Samuel, Uhrent and Ira.

Ebenezer was a graduate of the University of Vermont at Burlington, intending to study the profession of law, was teaching in St. Louis, Mo., died there unmarried.

Horace married Emma Booth Randolph. Their children were Myron, Holly, Fanstince, Augusta, Eglantine, John, Emma and Viola. He was by trade an expert molder. Many years ago he and family moved to Penacook, N. H., where he died.

Milan Hebard Sessions was educated at the Academy in Randolph, and at Norwich University, at Norwich, Vt., a military school under the direction of Capt. Alden Palridge; graduated in June, 1843. He read law with Judge E. Weston in Randolph; was admitted to the bar at Chelsea, Orange county, June 17, 1846. He was married November 3, 1847, to Carolin C. Chandler, daughter of Dea. Wm. B. Chandler. In January, 1850, he moved from Randolph to Waitsfield, Washington county. He had three children: John Nebard, born November 6, 1848; Carolin Walace, born May 31, 1832; Mary Willis, born April 6, 1854. He was elected state's attorney for Washington county in the years 1852–1853. In May, 1855, he moved to Waupaca, Waupaca county, Wis., where his wife died March 17, 1857. He married Elizabeth Wilson in Madison, June 21, 1866, and a daughter was born September 5, 1868, named Alice Thorn. He was elected district attorney for Waupaca county for the years 1857–1858. In August, 1862, he was commissioned by the Governor of Wisconsin to raise a company for the 21st Regiment of Infantry in the late war — making papers and actually enlisting eighty-seven men in twenty-four hours. He was commissioned captain of Co. G, August 26, 1862. Regiment left camp, in Oshkosh, for the front September 15, 1862. They went through to the sea with General Sherman and his army. On leaving the service Mr. Sessions returned to Waupaca and resumed the practice of law. He was elected to the

WILLIAM ROBERT SESSIONS,
Hampden, Mass.

Senate, in the Legislature of Wisconsin, for the years 1865–1866, and was elected a member of the House for the session of 1869. In April, 1871, he moved to Lincoln, Neb., and was there elected as a member of the Legislature for the session of 1873, and elected speaker of the House. He was again elected to the Legislature for the years 1879 and 1883. In May, 1884, he moved to Minneapolis, Minn., where he now resides. In 1885 he was a delegate from the Department of Minnesota to the G. A. R. National Encampment, held at Portland, Me., and to the encampment held in St. Louis, Mo., in 1887, also to the encampment held in Columbus, Ohio, in 1888, and was an aide on the staff of John P. Rea, commander-in-chief. His son, John H., now lives at Peoria, Ill., and is the general freight and passenger agent of the Terre Haute and Peoria Railroad Company. He has two children — Mary and John Chandler. Caroline, daughter of M. H. Sessions, married Herbert C. Winchester, of Ashburnham, Mass. He died August 31, 1885, leaving a daughter, born September 7, after his death. Both now live at Ashburnham. Mary Willis lives in Minneapolis and is a telegraph operator, and Alice also lives there.

Erastus C., brother of M. H., married Abbie C. Pariot, of Randolph, in 1868. In 1859 he went to California, with his family, across the plains. He is now living in Reno, Nev. (see his letter), and has been a member of the Legislature in that State. He has children, as follows: Orville, Edward and Charles, who are all married, also, Carrie and Celia.

Celina Sessions married Cyrus Newell. Their children were :

1. Samuel Ruggles, b. July 31, 1822, and d. December 4, 1878.
2. Nelson Cyrus.
3. Horace Sessions.
4. Charles Sykes.

The oldest son of Cyrus Newell and Celina Sessions Newell was Samuel Ruggles Newell, b. July 31, 1822, and was m. September 26, 1849, to Augusta Hine, at Naugatuck, Conn. To these were born :

1st. Isabel Prescott, July 19, 1850.
2d. Caroline Hopson, July 13, 1852.
3d. Alice Elizabeth, June 6, 1855.
4th. Mary De Forest, August 7, 1857.
5th. Henrietta Curtiss, December 22, 1859.

Henrietta d. February 11, 1863, at Longmeadow. All born at Longmeadow.

1. Isabel Prescott Newall was m. to John W. Welch, of Hartford, at Springfield, October 19, 1886. They had one child, John Newell Welch, b. November 10, 1887, at Hartford, Conn.

2. Caroline Hopson Newell was m. April 4, 1879, at Hartford, Conn., to Charles W. Hixon, of Springfield, Mass. To them were born : Helen Hixon, November 24, 1879 ; Mary Hixon, March 24, 1881, d. May 4, 1881 ; Harold Wilkinson Hixon, March 14,

1884; Edith Curtiss Hixon, September 28, 1888.— All born at Springfield, Mass.

4. Mary De Forest Newell was m. October 31, 1883, at Springfield, Mass., to Charles E. Stickney. To them were born: Samuel Newell Stickney, September 2, 1884; Isabel Stickney, December 8, 1886. — Both born at Springfield, Mass.

Horace Sessions Newell, third son of Cyrus Newell and Celina Sessions Newell, b. May 20, 1826, m. Cornelia Maria Smith, b. February 25, 1829. They had eight children, to-wit:

1. Katherine Boardman, b. July 30, 1849, m. Henry I. Goulding.

2. Ellen Persis, b. January 30, 1852, m. James C. Ingersoll. To them were born: Robert Newell, January 29, 1875; Elizabeth Martin, August 1, 1877; Raymond, September 6, 1880.

3. Harry Leslie, b. September 18, 1854, d. September 27, 1854.

4. Cornelia Smith, b. February 18, 1857, d. February 7, 1884, m. Erastus Barrett. To them were born: Edward Cecil, March 20, 1880; Harold Leslie, July 18, 1881, d. June 18, 1883.

5. Jane Sessions, b. July 22, 1859, m. Arthur Barrett. To them were born: Katherine Jean, March 17, 1882; Richard Newell, January 13, 1885.

6. Maud Celina, b. January 26, 1865, m. Charles D. Reid. To them were born: Louise Dwight, June 22, 1885; Charles Dwight, November 24, 1887.

7. Agnes Isabel,
8. Anna Chapman, } b. March 28, 1869.

Martha Phips Sessions, b. June 23, 1795, d. February 5, 1879, m. Maj. John West, February 12, 1818. He d. July 12, 1836. To them were born:

1. John Ruggles, February 15, 1819.
2. Martha Jane, February 14, 1821.
3. Robert Sessions, December 8, 1823.

1. John Ruggles West, m. Dolly Chaffee, April 7, 1847. To them were born: John Willie, February 20, 1848; Frances Edna, July 10, 1850; Bessie Amanda, July 31, 1853; Ida Jane, March 23, 1859; Arthur Norris, February 14, 1865.

John Willie West, m. Clara Edna Tyler, September 8, 1869. They had one child, Clara Pray West, b. November 10, 1872.

Frances Edna West, m. Oscar Albert Jones, June 2, 1880. They had one child, Arthur Albert Jones, b. May 19, 1881.

Bessie Amanda died in infancy, Ida Jane in childhood and Arthur Norris in early manhood.

2. Robert Sessions West, m. Frances Post. To them were born, Frances Amelia and Charles Sessions. (Francis Amelia, m. James Bacon. To them were born, Howard Bacon and James Bacon.) His second wife, Mariette Fay. To them were born, Charles Sessions and Eva. He, also, married a third wife, Miss Parker.

Extracts from a Sermon Delivered at the Funeral of Robert Sessions, in 1836, at South Wilbraham, Mass., by Rev. J. A. Hasen.

The deceased having lived during one of the most interesting periods of modern times — having actually participated in the ever-memorable act of throwing the tea overboard and the scenes of the revolution that followed — having been repeatedly honored by his fellow-citizens with the delicate trust of representing them in the General Court — having, for a long time, held a justice's commission, and, finally, having been actively engaged in the business of the town, and of the parish, in which he lived almost from their infancy, especially the latter, it surely will not be deemed improper, at this time, to dwell for a moment on the natural and acquired powers of the man, his intellectual, moral, social and political habits.

Born at a time and under circumstances which, although somewhat unpropitious to the formation of the scholar, were yet very favorable to the man of business, his naturally strong mind early developed itself in an unusual quickness of apprehension and promptness in meeting the exigencies of a case. Before many men could arrange a subject for consideration he would have arrived at the conclusion or even be devising the proper remedies in a case of difficulty, and as he never aimed at display, either in conversation or debate, but simply to be understood,

his language was always direct and easily comprehended. As a politician he was a man of honest purpose. None, whether thinking with him in politics or opponents, ever, for a moment, doubted his sincere and hearty attachment to the republican institutions of his country, and, like many others belonging to a political party often accused of leaning to aristocracy, in his whole life he furnished a complete refutation of the charge, at least, as it respected himself.

As a justice of the peace, I would there were more like him. He neither practiced litigation himself nor encouraged it in others. I think I am not going too far in saying he never tried a civil action during the whole term he held a commission. As an officer of the town, he was faithful and energetic. As a parishioner, he was peaceable and firm in support of good order. As a moralist, averse to the fine-spun subtleties and mysticism of sectarianism, he anchored his hopes of enjoyment here and happinness hereafter in obedience, through the spirit, to the great moral law of Jehovah.

He was ever ready to acknowledge, without further inquiry, that person to be a true and acceptable worshipper of God who "did justly, loved mercy and walked humbly before God."

Such, my friends, were the prominent traits of the deceased. My own sense of justice would not permit me to say less and time forbids saying more.

SAMPIT, GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SO. CAROLINA,
March 30, 1891.

MY DEAR SON — My father told me that two Sessions, brothers, came over from France to the United States,—one went north and the other south. The latter, I presume, located in Horry county, where my father was born and reared.

My father's name was Solomon. He had two brothers, Josias and Ransom. When my father died, in 1829, I was fourteen years old. I will write to the Sessions at Conway borough, Horry county, who, I think, can give me facts regarding our genealogy, and I shall let you have whatever notes I get.

Your affectionate father,
T. R. SESSIONS.

Children of Thomas Robert Sessions who grew to maturity:

Sarah Jane, b. 1842 or 1843; Thomas Solomon, b. 1845; David Robert, b. 1847; Charles Benjamin, b. 1851; Mary Catharine, deceased; Esther Ann, deceased; Anne, deceased; Joseph, deceased; Lucian, deceased.

Children of D. R. Sessions (San Francisco):

Henry Noteware, b. 1876; Charles Robert, b. 1879; Ruby Estelle, b. 1881.

Children of C. B. Sessions (San Francisco):

Volney Paul and Charles.

Biographical Sketch of David Robert Sessions, of San Francisco, Cal.

He was born in Georgetown, S. C., February 24, 1847, and his parents are both still living. His father, Thomas Robert Sessions, in the various occupations he has pursued at different times, as manufacturer, merchant, farmer or tax collector, has been a man of untarnished integrity. His son's early education was obtained in private schools. In time, he was sent to the high school, at Charleston, and military school, at Columbia, where, with other cadets, he volunteered to join the part of the Confederate army that was opposing Gen. Sherman's march to the sea. After the war he returned home on foot. He graduated from Princeton College in the class of '70; went to Carson City, Nevada; conducted a successful management of the State University of Nevada for four years, and was later State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Since 1885 he has been associated with Hubert Howe Bancroft, the historian of the Pacific coast. He was married, in 1875, to Mary Eliza Noteware, daughter of Hon. C. N. Noteware, of Nevada. In 1890 the faculty of Princeton unanimously recommended Mr. Sessions for the degree of Doctor of Literature to the board.

C. B. (Charles Benjamin) Sessions, brother of D. R. S., is secretary and manager of the California

Electrical and Engineering Company; a man of liberal education, fine business qualities and good future.

ITEM FURNISHED BY MRS. RUTH HUNTINGTON SESSIONS, THE AUTHORESS, FROM BROOKLYN, N. Y.

(From New York *Sun*, April 27, 1891.)

Leonard Sessions, a pioneer farmer and famous Methodist lay preacher of southern New York, who died recently at the extreme age of 102 years, 7 months and 12 days; was born in Mansfield, Conn. When he was 14 years old he removed with his father's family to Killawog, Broome county, in this State, at which place, and at Arkwright, Chautauqua county, he passed more than seventy-five years of his life, engaged in farming. While still a young man, and living at Killawog, he was converted under the preaching of the Rev. Mr. Lake, a Methodist revivalist of that day, and thenceforward he devoted a large share of his attention to Bible study and religious exhortation. On the occasion of a gathering of his friends on July 26, 1888, in honor of his 100th birthday, he delivered quite a long exhortation from a scripture text with old-time Methodist fervor.

HAMLET, *May* 8, 1891.
SESSIONS HOMESTEAD, ARKWRIGHT.

Mr. F. C. SESSIONS, *Columbus, Ohio:*

DEAR SIR — Your favor of the 5th inst. at hand. I will say in reply, the notice you saw in the paper on death of Leonard Sessions was just your missing link to your history. He was my grandfather, by my father. He was a very remarkable man, both physically and mentally. Why the item should read "Rev." I am at a loss to say, as grandfather was not a minister, although having professed religion upward of eighty years. Every word of scripture he had at his command, and his last years (all I can remember) his whole conversation was the scriptures. His mental faculties were strong all through his uncommon length of years (this is what I have heard him say time after time). His forefathers came from France. Three brothers came to America from France, after a while one returned to his native land; two remained here, settling in Connecticut. His grandfather was Leonard, or Marcus, or Cyrus, and his father's name was Leonard. He married and lived in Mansfield, Conn., and his family was born there, namely: Leonard, Marcus, Cyrus and Lydia. Then, about the 18th century, he moved, with his family and his father, to Lyle, Broome county, N.Y. In 1811 Leonard, Jr., married one Azubeth Martin. In 1826 with his family, consisting of wife and two boys, Holland and Henry, and four girls, he moved to Chautauqua county, set-

tling on a farm in Arkwright, making it his permanent home. The place now is known as the "Old Sessions Place." Grandfather claimed to be from the one brother and W. L. Sessions is of the other brother. W. L. Sessions, of Jamestown, came here once to see grandfather about their relation and found that was as near as they were; but all the Sessions are blood-related. Grandfather was born in Mansfield, Conn., in the year 1788. His son-in-law wrote there to get his correct age when he was 100 years old; it is on record there on town clerk's book.

His brother Marcus married and lived on his father's farm, at Lyle, Broome county, N. Y. He died at an early age leaving three children, John, Archimedes and Ada. Cyrus and Lydia lived a life of single blessedness together for years. They were robbed and the burglar gave him a rap, from the effects of which he died. Cyrus was a very eccentric old bachelor. I have heard grandfather say, "he would go cross lots, or three miles out of his way, rather than meet a woman." (So unlike a Sessions of these days.)

Grandfather's father lived to be over 90 years; his mother, 97 years. Grandfather went to live with his daughter, in Pennsylvania, eighteen years ago. I have visited him three times in the meantime. He always knew me, and his mind was remarkably strong for one of his age. It may be you will want his descendants' names; if so write me and I will give them in full, or any particular question you wish I shall be pleased to answer. If you wish to write Archimedes

Sessions, Killawog, Broome county, N. Y., perhaps he might give information more clear than I have, or farther back, that is, the names of the 1st and 2d generations.

There was a celebration held for grandfather, Leonard Sessions, on his *centennial*, July 26, 1888, at his daughter's, Springfield, Pa. The papers were full of it — the Erie *Graphic* for instance — I have thought you might have seen that.

I shall be pleased to hear from you at your own convenience.

Yours respectively,

EMMA D. COWDRY (*nee* Sessions).

Children of Martha Jane West, Daughter of John and Martha P. (Sessions) West.

(See p. 224.)

Martha Jane West, b. Feb. 14, 1821; m. Solomon Clark Spellman, June 1, 1841. Ch. Charles Clark Spellman, b. Dec. 3, 1843; Delia Morris Spellman, b. Oct. 6, 1847; Rodney Comstock Spellman, b. Aug. 2, 1854. Martha Jane West died Aug. 17, 1855. Rodney Comestock Spellman died Aug. 24, 1855.

Charles Clark Spellman, m. Jennie H. Flagg, Oct. 4, 1871. Ch. Charles Flagg Spellman, b. Nov. 30, 1873; Bessie Spellman, b. Oct. 6, 1880.

Delia Morris Spellman, m. George Tyler Ballard, June 8, 1870. Ch. Charles Spellman Ballard, b. April 25, 1875; Howard Thompson Ballard, b. Dec. 19, 1878.

Family of Nelson Cyrus Newell.

Nelson Cyrus Newell, of Springfield, Mass. (see p. 222), was b. in Springfield, March 11, 1824; m. first, Mary M. Chandler, of Longmeadow; she died September 16, 1856; m. second, Mrs. Mary M. Filley Sessions, of South Windsor, Conn.; she died April 9, 1871. No children. Third, Helen Grant, of Manchester Green, Conn. No children. By first wife had

Howard Nelson, b. August 29, 1846; m. Addie Louise Miller, of Springfield.

Albert Wellington, born January 5, 1848; m. Elizabeth Hodenpyl, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Frank Sessions, b. May 7, 1849; died December 4, 1873.

Minnie or Mary Louise, b. March 8, 1851; m. Herbert Mason, of New Haven, Conn.

William Chandler, b. September 9, 1852; m. Martha Vaughn Harris, of Rutland, Vt.

Charles Horace, b. January 15, 1855; died June 24, 1882.

Charles Sykes Newell, of Longmeadow, Mass., m. Emily Read Baker. No children.

GRAND CHILDREN OF NELSON C. NEWELL.

Minnie Newell Mason's family:

Frank Herbert Mason, b. September 25, 1878.

Mary Louise Mason, b. March 5, 1881; died a baby.

Helen Newell Mason, b. December 14, 1883.

Howard N. Newell's child:

Louise Newell, b. October 19, 1883.

Albert W. Newell's family:

Albert Nelson Newell, b. October 29, 1878.

Elizebeth Hodenpyl Newell, b. July 26, 1880.

Antoine Jaques Gysberte Hodenpyl Newell, b. December 9, 1881.

Letter of E. J. Bicknall to F. C. Sessions.

Providence, R. I., *July* 13, 1891.

Darius Sessions (son of Nathaniel), was born in Pomfret, Conn., Oct. 13, 1717; died in Providence, R. I., April 22, 1809; was educated at Yale College, then came to Providence and engaged in commercial pursuits; was deputy-governor of Rhode Island from 1769 to 1775; was a very prominent man in public affairs, and socially; was married March 26, 1750, to Sarah, daughter of J. William Antram, among whose ancestors were the following settlers, viz.: Thomas Fenner, two of whose descendants (Arthur and James) were governors of Rhode Island, also Richard Waterman and Richard Berden, who were the founders of large families of these names in this city and vicinity; and lastly, William Harris, who was one of the five men who accompanied Roger Williams when he first landed on the shores of Rhode Island.

Governor Sessions had three sons and three daughters; one of the sons and all of the daughters died without issue. One of the other two sons (Darius), was a farmer and lived at Pomfret, Conn. and died there leaving two daughters, Penelope and Nancy. Penelope married Isaac K. Tefft of Savannah, Ga., and both she and her husband are dead with no living descendants. Nancy married William Skinner of Pomfret, Conn.; both herself and husband are dead, their only living descendants being Darius

Sessions Skinner and his grand-daughter, Mrs. Maude Morse of Putnam, Conn.

Governor Sessions' other son (Thomas), always lived in Providence, R. I., and was successfully engaged in mercantile and manufacturing operations. He married Elizabeth Marchant, daughter of Henry Marchant of Newport, R. I., who was the first U. S. Attorney-General, from 1771 to 1777, and member of the Continental Congress from 1777 to 1780 and 1783 to 1784. They had two sons and five daughters, viz.: Darius, Henry M., Elizabeth M., Sarah, Mary Ann, Frances and Rebecca. None of whom are now living.

Darius had a large family, only two of whom are now living, viz.: Mrs. Sarah S. Walden of Savannah, Ga., and Miss Anna M. Sessions of Providence, R. I.

Henry M. had also a large family of whom there are now living three sons only, viz.: William, Henry M. and Stephen W. of this city, merchants.

Elizabeth M. married Joshua Bicknall, merchant of Providence, R. I., whose surviving descendants are their son, Edward J. Bicknall, and his two sons, Edward and Frank J., all merchants of Providence, R. I.

Frances married Samuel J. Cole of Providence, R. I., and their living descendants are Washington L., of Providence, farmer; William M. of Pawtucket, R. I., farmer, and Samuel J. and Frank of Pawtucket, R. I., farmers.

Rebecca married Deacon James H. Read of Provi-

dence, R. I., merchant, died without issue. Mr. Read is still living and nearly or quite 95 years old.

Sarah died in infancy. Mary Ann was never married.

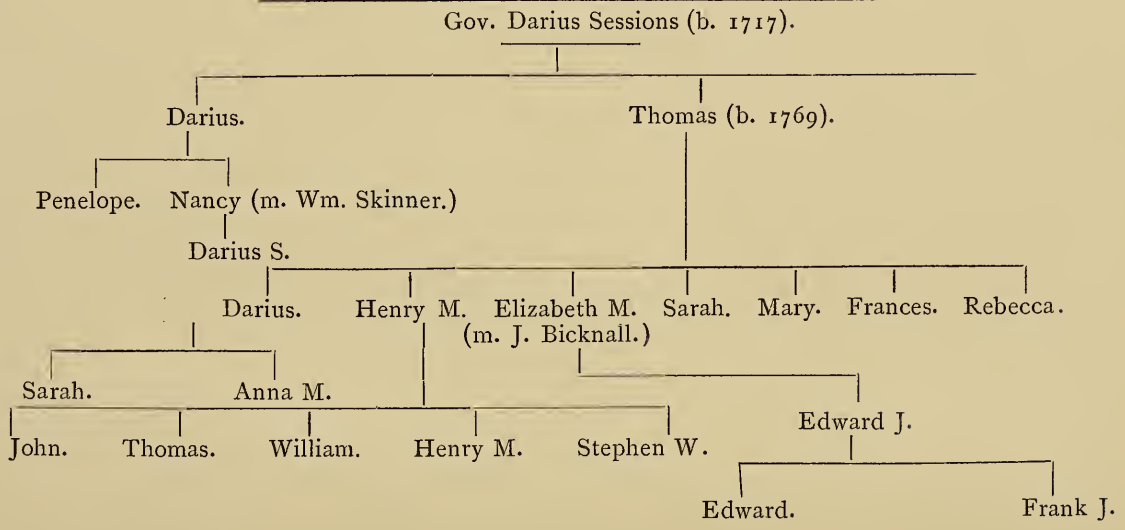
My uncle Henry had five sons, viz.: Thomas, now deceased, leaving a widow (Abby) and daughter, Nannie; also John, deceased, leaving a widow (Georgianna) and daughter, Mabel W. William has no children and never had. Henry M. has never married. Stephen W. has three little girls.

Perregrine G. Sessions.

While Mr. F. C. Sessions was traveling in the west last spring (1891), he stopped at Salt Lake City and made inquiries concerning the family of Perrigrine Sessions (see his letter, p. 46). He sought information from prominent business men who knew Mr. Sessions, and they said that he still resided at City Bountiful and was 85 years old. It was learned that he had recently celebrated his 85th birthday surrounded by 50 of his children. In the vicinity there is a town called Sessions, a school — which has a Sessions for a teacher — all of whose pupils bear the name Sessions. As some of her sons have moved to different parts of the territory and Idaho, it would be fair to presume if any Sessions were found in this locality and could not be traced to any other branch, that they were the descendants of Peregrine Sessions.

Chart 8.

(See Chart 1, page 209.)



English Crest of Sessions Family.

Our First Ancestors in this Country.

It has required some time and labor to trace the Sessions genealogy back to the first one of our name born in this country, namely, Alexander Sessions of Andover, Mass., born in 1645. (See page 24.) But it has been impossible so far as to connect him with the first Sessions to emigrate from England. We know from the records that Governor Thomas Dudley came to this country in 1630, and that Samuel Sessions accompanied him as farmer of his estates, and lived in Massachusetts. It seems fair to presume that he was the father of Alexander of Andover, who was a freeman of that place, and helped to lay out the town.

It seems to be understood that the family came from Wantage, England, and that this Samuel Sessions was one of the body-guard of King George. He probably obtained an honorable discharge or would not have accompanied Gov. Dudley to this country.

There are also many of the name in the south as will be seen from the letters. There seem to be two branches, at least, which it has not been possible as yet to trace to a single ancestor. But we have the record of the passengers from Boston for Virginia in

1635, in the January number of the General Register, and among them appears the name of George Sessions, aged forty. He probably was a brother of Samuel, and may have followed him over in 1630. At any rate, until further discoveries are made, we may claim our southern cousins through him.

The early generations of the family can be found on pages 100 to 111 and 127 to 130.

We are indebted to Mrs. Jane Sessions Robinson of Blandford, Mass., for the sketches on pages 178 and 179.

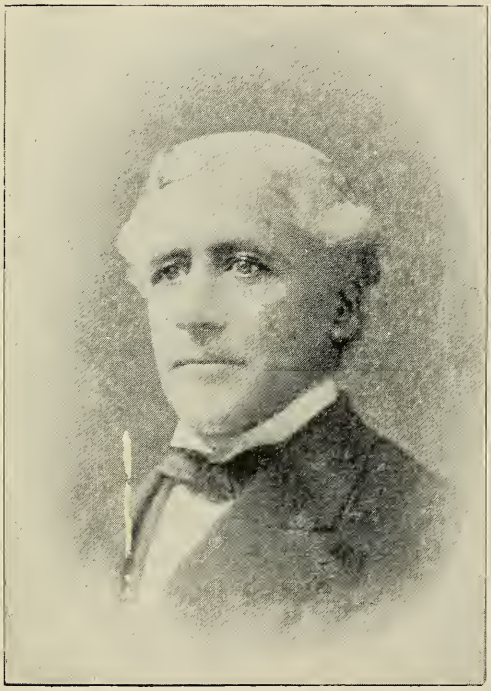
LETTER FROM MISS ELLEN WASHBURN SESSIONS TO F. C. SESSIONS.

CLEVELAND, O., *June* 27, 1891.

MY DEAR MR. SESSIONS:—

I inclose you an account of our ancestor, the "*Black Sessions*" as he was afterward called probably from the *blackness* of his crime. If it is not too late you may like it for your book. This account is taken from a report of a birthday gathering made for Rev. J. W. Sessions some years ago. He was prevailed on to give some facts in his life and among them the story of the deer. As I understand it, it was the great-grandfather of my uncle S. W. Sessions, and I think his name was John. He was also a judge of the county courts.

"No set speeches were made by the visitors and Mr. Sessions only yielded to our importunities to



Gen. M. H. SESSIONS,
Minneapolis, Minn.

give us a few facts as to his past life. He was born in Lunenburg, Vt., one of seven children, three of them Congregational ministers, one of them a missionary to the Sandwich Islands. The youngest of the family was above sixty years old at the time of death. The parents were of the old Puritan stock, who trained up their children in the fear of the Lord, taught them the catechism, the strict observance of the Sabbath and all were members of the Congregational church.

"The grandfather was a man of much eminence, living in Westminister, Vt., a member of the Continental Congress, and a deacon in the Congregational church. In a time when provisions were very scarce in that section of the country, when they had little to eat but potatoes and salt, the good deacon saw a deer come out of the woods near his house late Sunday afternoon; he seized his gun and shot the deer. For this the church brought him up for discipline. He pleaded that it was both a work of necessity and of mercy, and that he was justified in killing this game, so providentially brought within range of his trusty gun, even if it were before sunset on Sunday. The church, however, instructed the pastor to read the sentence of excommunication on the following Sabbath. The deacon was asked to rise in his pew while the sentence was read severing his relation to the church for Sabbath breaking. He arose, and as the pastor was about to read, reaching behind him, he took his gun which he had carried to the meeting-

house, levelled it at the minister's head, and in the most determined tone said, 'I forbid that paper being read from the pulpit.' The pastor quietly remarked 'All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient, and I do not think it expedient to read this paper.' The deacon not only lived but died a member and deacon of the church."

LETTER OF D. S. SESSIONS TO F. C. SESSIONS.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, *Sept.* 11, 1891.

Mr. F. C. SESSIONS, *Columbus, Ohio:*

Dear Sir.— Your favor of 8th inst. received, and in reply will say: My grandfather was a native of Georgia, I think Washington county. He died in 1848 or 1849, in Thomas county, Ga. My father is now living, aged about 72, a physician, was born, I think, in Jefferson county, Florida. He now lives in Madison, Madison county, Florida, and I will write him and send your letter. Dr. Abner Mitchell Rutherford Sessions is his full name. We are of Scotch-Irish descent. My father had six brothers and three sisters; his brothers' names were Hampton, Robinson, Lewey, Llewellyn, John and Romeo; sisters, Mary, Matilda and Sarah. I do not now recollect their other names; they are all dead but Llewellyn and Mary. My own name is David Shelton Sessions, was born September 22, 1847, in Thomas county, Ga., married in Florida, 1866, at 19; have ten children living and two dead; have one grandchild about two and one-half years old. So you see this part of the family are obeying the scriptural injunction to go forth and replenish the earth. My home is in Ennis, Ellis county, Texas, but I am in charge of the office of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York at this place. I passed through your town last February on my way to New York city. There is

another family by the name of Sessions living at Rice, Navarro county, Texas. A letter addressed to Egbert Sessions, Rice, Navarro county, Texas, will reach him and he will give you any information that he may have in reference to our history. It seems to me from what I have heard that we originally came from Wales. The direct ancestors of myself and father were whole-souled, generous people, always ready for a *fight* or a *frolic*, and generally carried the day in either. As soon as I hear from my father, will give you such additional information as I may get. Will be glad to hear from you again, and if you should ever come to the Lone Star State, will be glad to have you stop and stay with us. A letter addressed to me, 94 Main street, Houston, Texas, or Lock box 121, Ennis, Ellis county, Texas, will reach me.

With kind wishes, I am, yours truly,

D. S. Sessions.

Letter of G. A. Sessions to F. C. Sessions.

Banner, Freestone Co., Texas,
Sept. 4, 1891.

Dear Sir.— Yours of August 22d is at hand and contents noted. You ask to know something of the history of my family as you wish to write up a history of the family. I know very little of the history of my family, as I have not known any of my brother's family, except his immediate family. My understanding is that he came from South Carolina, from

the rice country not far from Charleston. He was a widower and had children. I don't know whether his first wife died in Carolina or not, but he married my mother in Lowndes county, Ala., and from that marriage he had two children, myself and brother, who died young. One of the half brothers, J. J. Sessions, was a Baptist preacher. W. J. Sessions, a farmer, is still alive, and lives in Alabama, Wilcox county. His post-office address is Rose Bud, Wilcox county, Ala. If you will write W. J. Sessions, it may be he can give some information about the family, as he was born in South Carolina, and is a good deal older than I. I was born in Lowndes county, Ala., December 14, 1829. My father died July 8, 1835. I see from his will, of which I have a copy, his name signed John Sessions. I do not know what his father's name was, but if you will write W. J. Sessions it may be he can give you the name of grandfather. I don't think of any thing else that would be of importance to you now, so I will close. Any questions that you may want to ask, if you will write me I will answer with pleasure as far as I am able.

Yours truly,

G. A. Sessions.

Post-office, Banner, Texas.

P. S. I will say to you that there is another family of Sessions in the adjoining county, Navarro, but if we are related we cannot trace it. Isaac Sessions came down about thirty years ago to see if we could scrape up kin, but we could not. His family was

from North Carolina and mine from South Carolina, and he told me that there were two brothers that came from Scotland in early day to the United States. They were not married at that time. One of them married and settled in South Carolina, and the other in North Carolina. He was of North Carolina family and I of South Carolina family. If you have not written them they may give some information. The old man is dead. He was in the banking business at Ennis, on Texas Central railroad. His family is still there. I don't know any of his sons' names, but write to Sessions at Corsicana, Navarro county, Texas, or Ennis, Navarro county, Texas, they will get it.

G. A. Sessions.

ERRORS AND CORRECTIONS.

Page 16, line 16, "singed" should be "signed."
Page 21, line 14, "the" should be "they."
Page 27, line 19, "Newall" should be "Newell."
Page 52. This letter refers to that on p. 46.
Page 55, line 22, 1773 should be 1779.
Page 63, line 29, "Blankford" should be "Blandford."
Page 81, line 15, "ran should be "run."
Page 85, line 25, after "Bellevue" insert "Michigan."
Page 111, between lines 24 and 25, at head of paragraph, insert "Letter of Lieut.-Gov. Sessions of Ionia, Mich., to F. C. Sessions."
Page 175, line 9, "Masten" should be "Morton."
Page 177, line 5, "Metlakechla" should be "Metlakachtla."
Page 177, line 10, "May," should be "Mary."
Page 182, line 1, "it" should be "one."
Page 183, line 5, insert after "school-house," or "light-houses of the republic," as some one calls the school-houses of New England.
Page 186, before line 7, insert "these."
Page 210, chart 2, John, Anne and Samuel are the children of John, b. 1741.
Page 212, chart 4, Betsey, Charles, Robert, etc., to

Wm. V., b. 1801, are children of Robert, b. 1752.

Page 218, line 18, leave out word "who."

Page 222, should have the title "Descendants of Celina Sessions, daughter of Robert," b. 1752.

Page 225, line 3, "Hasen" should be "Hazen."

Page 225, line 14, comma after "latter," and "it" should begin with small letter.

Page 227, line 12, "genelogy" should be "genealogy."

Page 230, line 1, after "Hamlet" insert "N. Y."

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Amasa Sessions to John Sessions, 1838.....	29
Thomas Sessions to H. S. Flynt, 1845.....	34
Wm. H. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859...	37
Wm. V. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859...	38
Walter L. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859.	40
Gilman L. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859.	41
John Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859.....	44
Perregrine G. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859.	46
Jairus A. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859..	48
Alexander J. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859.	49
Eliakim W. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859.	50
Mrs. Milton Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859.	53
Gilman L. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859.	53
Alexander G. Rich to John W. Sessions, 1859..	58
H. S. Flynt to John W. Sessions, 1859.....	59
Phillip Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1859.....	65
James P. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1860..	66
Alexander J. Sessions to John W. Sessions, 1860.	69
E. C. Sessions to E. C. Sessions, 1869.....	70
William V. Sessions to Alfred Poor, 1871.....	70
Joseph W. Sessions to Alfred Poor, 1871.....	71
Samuel Sessions to Alfred Poor, 1871.....	79

PAGE.
E. W. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1871..... 80
David Sessions to Alfred Poor, 1871..... 85
John Sessions to Alfred Poor, 1871..... ... 86
Joseph W. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1871.... 89
S. W. Sessions to Alfred Poor, 1871 92
David Sessions to Alfred Poor, 1871..... 96
D. A. Dwight to Alfred Poor, 1871..... 97
Alfred Poor to F. C. Sessions, 1871 98
C. Hammond to F. C. Sessions, 1871..... . 99
C. Hammond, genealogy of Nathaniel Sessions, of Pomfret..... 100
Alonzo Sessions to F. C. Sessions..... 111
C. E. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1884..... 113
Charles E. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1884.... 114
C. E. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1884..... 115
Moultrie M. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1886 .. 120
J. F. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1888..... 122
Estrays..... 123
Early generations of the Sessions family 127
Jay Sessions — descendants of Nathaniel Sessions..... 131
Nathaniel Sessions..... 136
Robert Sessions, Jr..... 143
Biographical sketch of Francis C. Sessions 145
Francis Sessions, father of Francis C. Sessions. 168
Descendants of Nathaniel Sessions..... 169
Descendants of John Sessions 170
Descendants of George Sessions.. 173
Lineage of Francis C. Sessions 177
Biographical sketch of Frederick Sessions..... 190

PAGE.
Biographical sketch of Walter L. Sessions..... 191
Biographical sketch of Rev. John Sessions..... 194
Biographical sketch of Alonzo Sessions..... 195
Biographical sketch of Wm. M. Sessions..... 198
Biographical sketch of Wm. R. Sessions..... 201
Historical sketch of M. H. Sessions 218
Prof. L. O. Emerson to F. C. Sessions, 1890... 201
H. H. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1890..... 203
H. H. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1890 206
Chart showing genealogy of Sessions family... 209
J. F. Sessions to H. M. Sessions, 1890..... 216
Dr. Lewe Sessions to H. M. Sessions, 1890.... 217
Wm. V. Sessions to F. C. Sessions, 1890..... 179
Reminiscences of F. C. Sessions, 1890 183
Reminiscences of Mrs. Jane Sessions Robinson. 181
Extract from funeral service of Robert Sessions. 225
Letter from T. R. Sessions..... 227
Biographical sketch of David Robert Sessions.. 228
Item from Mrs. Ruth Huntington Sessions.... 229
Letter from Emma D. Cowdry (*nee* Sessions).. 230
Martha Jane West, children of..... 233
Family of N. C. Newell..... 233
E. Bicknell to F. C. Sessions..... 235
Perregrine G. Sessions..... 237
Chart..... 238
First ancestors in America 239
Miss E. W. Sessions to F. C. Sessions..... 240
Errata..... 243

INDEX.

PAGE.

Sessions, Abel, b. 1689 8
Abijah, b. 1727..... 30, 55
Abner, b. 1722..... 30, 55, 61
Abner, b. 1765..... 31
Alexander, b. 1645... 5, 6, 12, 15, 24, 25
59, 127
Alexander, b. 1676.....8, 25
Alexander, b. 1713..... 30
Alexander, "Col.," b. 1751..... 30
Alexander J., b. 1809 .... 38, 43, 49, 69
Alonzo, b. 1810..... 31, 195
Amasa, "Capt.," b. 1715..31, 35, 51, 60, 131
Amasa, b. 1779 ..... 29, 31
Amasa, b. 1748..... 31, 60
Calvin, b. 1799..... 92
Celina 64
Charles, b. 1780..... 38, 61
Darius, Gov., b. 1717..... 30, 35, 60
Darius, b. 1753..... 26
David, b. 1718..... 9, 10, 14, 16, 26, 129
David, b. 1749 26
Eliakim Wm., b. 1796..... 29, 50, 80

PAGE.

Sessions, Elizabeth, b. 1673..... 8, 9, 26
Elizabeth, b. about 1769..... 11
Erastus C..... 70
Francis, b. 1792..... 39, 61, 64, 168
Francis C., b. 1820 ..39, 64, 145, 177, 183
Francis M., b. 1866..... 175
Frank A., b. 1848..... 196
Frank L., b. 1868..... 144
Frederick, b. 1836..... 190
George, b. 1784..... 39, 61, 64, 173, 175
Gilman L., b. 1830..... 41, 53, 108
Harvey, b. 1779..... 33, 38, 43, 50
Hannah M..... 64
Hettee, b. 1744..... 26
Henry H., b. 1847..... 203
Hanson, b. 1813..... 64, 173
Horace, b. 1794..... 39, 61
Horace M..... 63, 144
Jarius A., b. 1836..... 48
James P..... 66
Jane 63, 144, 181
Jay, b. 1854..... 131
J. F..... 122
John, b. 1774..... 8, 15
John, b. 1741..... 10, 17, 170
John, b. 1745..... 31, 60
John, b. 1795 29
John, b. 1820..... 44
John, Rev., b. 1795 ..... 71, 86, 194
John Q. A., b. 1832 ..... 64, 174

PAGE.

Sessions, Joseph, b. 1686..... 8, 15, 26, 128
Joseph W., b. 1801..... 71, 76
Josiah, b. 1684..... 13, 14, 25, 89
Josiah, b. 1725..... 11, 20
Mary, b. 1751..... 26
Martha P..... 64
M. H., b. 1821..... 201
Moultrie M., b. 1863..... 120, 200
Nathaniel, b. 1681.. 8, 25, 30, 60, 131, 169
Nathaniel, b. about 1673..... 11, 22, 23
Nathaniel, b. 1750..... 29, 31, 44, 60
Nathaniel, b. 1790..... 31, 131, 136
Nancy..... 64
Otis, b. 1782..... 48
Perregrine G..... 237
Philip..... 65
Robert, Jr., b. 1783..... 39, 143
Robert, b. 1752..... 31, 60, 61, 63
Samuel, b. 1680..... 13, 15, 16, 89, 128
Samuel, b. 1746..... 26, 31, 60
Samuel, b. 1710..... 73
Samuel, b. 1805..... 75
Samuel, b. 1772..... 86
Samuel W., b. 1826..... 92
Samuel, Jr., b. 1710..... 14, 16, 26, 129
Sarah, b. about 1771..... 10, 11
Simeon, b. 1820..... 31
Squire, b. 1759..... 29, 31, 60
Stephen, b. 1775..... 11, 22, 23
Sumner, b. 1797..... 39, 61, 64

PAGE.

Sessions, Timothy, b. 1678 ..... 8, 25, 26
Timothy, b. 1711 ..... 10, 14, 17, 129
Thomas, b. 1769 34
Walter L., b. 1835 ..... 40, 191
William Pitt, b. 1779 ..... 42, 55
William V., b. 1801 ... 38, 61, 64, 70, 179
William R., b. 1835 201
William H 37, 43
William M., Judge, b. 1827 ..... 120, 198

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